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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

ALL intelligence from America is of a very gloomy character. The correspondents of the various London daily papers, however much they may differ on other points, agree in the dark picture which they draw of the financial condition of the Federal States and in the statements which they make as to the amount of ill-feeling at present existing towards England. This must certainly be based upon the old principle that we hate those whom we have injured; for it begins to appear that not only in the matter of Messrs. Mason and Slidell did the Federal Government treat us with insult, but that our colonial subjects have been illegally arrested, thrown into noisome prisons, and generally maltreated in a manner disgraceful to a civilised age and a civilised country. One most flagrant case was exposed in the columns of the *Times* of Wednesday. A Canadian gentleman of the name of Shaver was arrested, it appears, on the cars as he was travelling between Detroit and Louisville, Kentucky. This arbitrary act was the result of a suspicion that he was carrying arms and despatches to the Confederates. He was stripped, searched, treated generally in the most ignominious way, and, although nothing was found to criminate him, was thrown into a "filthy cell with negroes, thieves, and the other wretched characters that form the prison staple of a large city. He was thence carried to New York, examined before the chief of the police, informed that his arrest was a mistake, and promised his liberation in a few days. He was subsequently offered several conditional discharges, none of which would he accept. It was not until the 6th of January that, after the active intervention of Lord Lyons on his behalf, he was unconditionally discharged. His is one of many such cases; and surely some heavy compensation should be given to him by the Federal Government, and the British Government is bound to see that such a gross injustice perpetrated against a loyal colonist should be amply redressed. The victories over the Confederate troops which have been so loudly and so frequently promised are not as yet realities. The weather at Washington has been most unpropitious for the advance of the Federal

troops. Mr. Cameron has resigned, or has been dismissed from, his post as Secretary of War. It seems doubtful whether he has been partial and reckless in his contracts, or whether his prominent advocacy of slave-abolition doctrines has given offence to the President and the Cabinet; but he is to go as Minister to Russia, and the fiery Mr. Cassius Clay is to return to his country and take a command in the army.

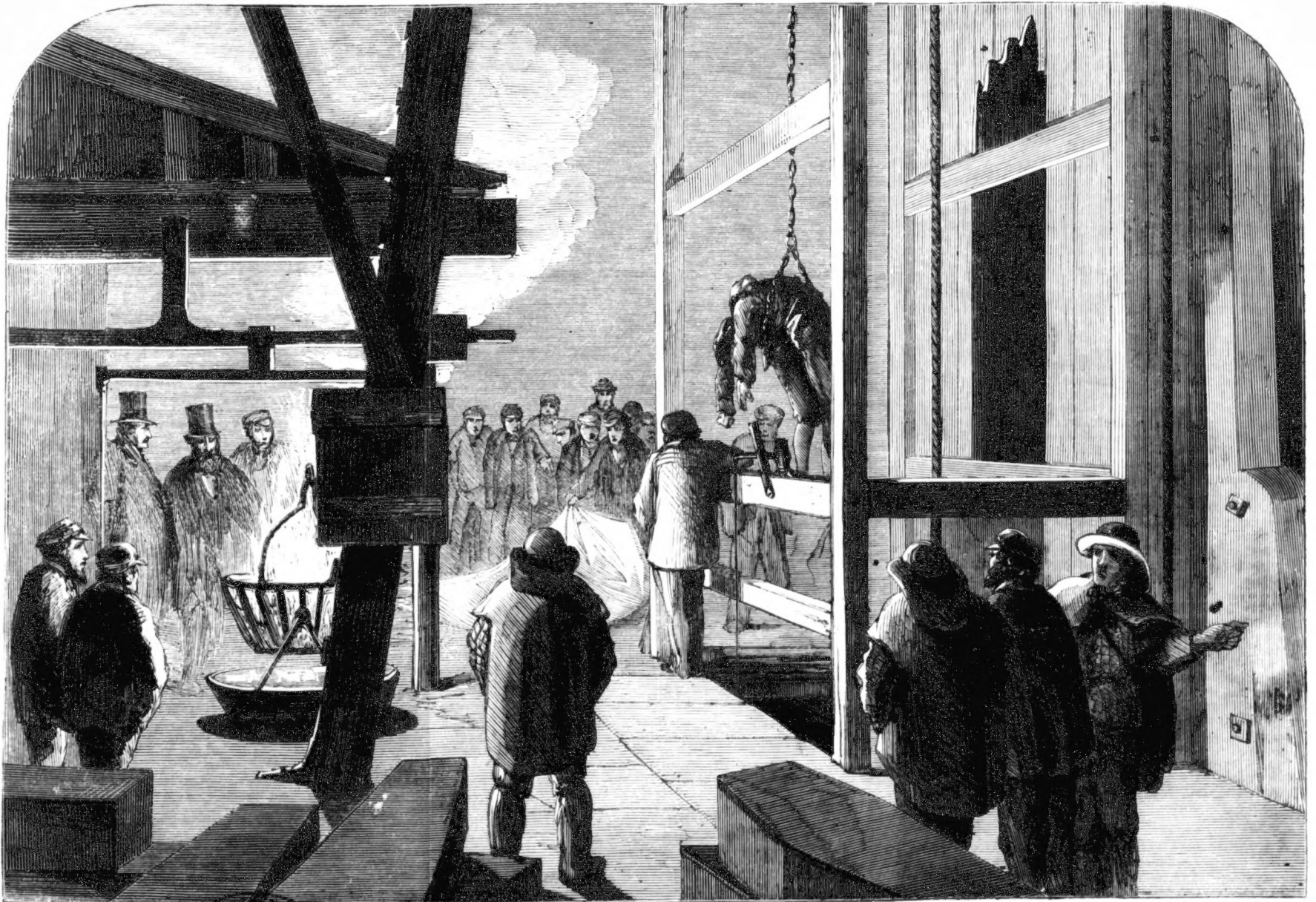
One fatal symptom of the dangerous condition of society and government in the Northern States is the manifest contempt into which the Assembly has fallen. No one in America or anywhere else appears to regard or respect the opinions expressed in Congress. The Cabinet acts with a secrecy to which we are here strangers, and the Federal Government is at present, and will soon be still more so, a despotism of the sword.

The Emperor of the French has delivered the usual annual speech to the Legislative Chambers, and it has given the utmost satisfaction in France and in this country. The account of the condition of French finance is a most masterly sketch. Retrenchment has come, not from any complaint of an Opposition, not in consequence of any warnings of the press, but from the Emperor himself and from his Ministers; and the practical attempt to carry out this retrenchment is a good guarantee of the peaceful policy that is promised. France has certainly during the Empire spent money with the most lavish hand, but she has something to show for it. We must admit this, if we look at the increased magnitude and beauty of her capital, the grandeur of her public works, her dockyards, her Navy, her Army, her churches, monuments, hospitals, and galleries of art. Her present position in Europe proves that the outlay has not been made in vain. She has vastly increased her capacity for raising a large revenue. She must not, however, continue to draw too largely upon her resources, but rather strive to keep down expenditure in every way.

The worst that we anticipated has happened in the case of the dreadful and ever-to-be-remembered Hartley Colliery accident. One hundred and ninety-nine human beings (in

addition to the five killed in the shaft) have been exhumed from the dark mineral grave where they died in the execution of their duty. The magnitude of this awful tragedy will work beneficent results not only to the unhappy widows and orphans of the deceased, but to all those whose lot it is to earn their daily bread by such laborious and perilous toil. The eyes of the whole country have been attracted to this scene of suspense, anxiety, torture, and suffering; and the necessary investigations will now be made which in future may prevent work in collieries from being so fraught with danger. In the meeting which the miners held at Newcastle, Mr. Mather, a miner, moved a resolution, which was unanimously carried, praying for a Parliamentary inquiry into the whole question of mining accidents, and expressing an opinion that no mine should be worked without the previous sinking of two shafts. It appears that another shaft might have been sunk at Hartley at a cost of £2000, or even less. It is to be hoped that a Parliamentary Committee will speedily investigate the whole question, and that a bill may be passed in the ensuing Session which may compel the proprietors of collieries to bear the responsibilities which attach to property of this peculiar kind. Her Majesty has enhanced the loyalty and affection felt towards her by all classes in the community by the tender solicitude and goodness of heart which she has displayed in reference to the melancholy incidents of this terrible disaster.

The sum collected for the purpose of erecting a memorial to the late Prince Consort has now swollen to a considerable amount. It is over twenty thousand pounds; and if meetings are held in the various county towns of England, presided over by the Lords Lieutenants of the counties, supported by members of Parliament and other local magistrates, there is no reason why it may not reach an amount which may fully suffice to found some great school or college of industrial art which might be of vast utility to a manufacturing and commercial country like this, and would be strictly in unison with the schemes, wishes, and career of him to whose honour it would be erected.



THE CALAMITY AT THE HARTLEY COLLIERY.—BRINGING THE DEAD BODIES TO BANK

The Windham case has almost ceased to interest the scandal-loving and gossip-mongering world. On Tuesday the dulness and monotony of the now wearisome affair were varied by a scene which must have enlivened the proceedings to the curious spectators and listeners who thronged the Court. Mr. Montagu Chambers, Q.C., who has conducted the case for the petitioners with a degree of energy and animus scarcely required in an advocate in a case of this kind, on a sudden was infuriated by the fact that a certain Mr. Gwyn, one of the medical witnesses for "the alleged lunatic," was, according to the learned counsel, "grinning from ear to ear" at him with "contemptuous discredit." He demanded that the person in question should be compelled to change his seat, and, as the jury had also observed this unseemly conduct, the medical gentleman was obliged to remove from the body of the court and place himself among "the undistinguished mass" of ordinary listeners.

The election in Oxfordshire, which at first bade fair to pass over in a very quiet and conventional way, has developed into a very vigorous contest. At the nomination on Tuesday the show of hands was declared to be in favour of Sir H. Dashwood.

One of the City livings is placed at the disposal of Lord Palmerston by the death of the Rev. Hartwell Horne, well known by his learned work, "A Critical Introduction to the Study of the Scriptures," and many other works of value, displaying much research and industry. The Church of St. Edmund the Martyr, in Lombard-street, is one of those churches the propriety of removing which to some populous suburb has so frequently been discussed. Since the City has ceased to be a place of residence the utility of these churches has become very doubtful, and a good opportunity arises for taking some step in reference to this particular one.

THE CATASTROPHE AT HARTLEY COLLIERY.

BRINGING THE BODIES TO BANK.

The closing acts in this sad tragedy have been accomplished. During Friday night week the men employed in clearing the shaft made great progress in restoring the ventilation, and early on Saturday morning they had carried the brattice work so far as to enable them to get at the bodies without danger. A few of them were found lying among the ashes of the furnace, but the greater part were lying in the yard seam, within a short distance from the shaft. The first man was found sitting on a coal seat, his head resting on his arm in a posture of calm repose; and immediately beyond him was a whole row of corpses seated on the ground with their backs against the wall of coal. Further on were three or four rows of dead men lying *pêle mêle*, with legs interlaced, some with their heads lying on each others' breasts, some locked in each other's arms. From the general appearance of the men there can be no doubt that all of them died from the effects of the gas, and died quietly and calmly. There is every reason to believe—and it is a merciful supposition—that in most instances their agonies would not be prolonged beyond the Saturday after the fatal accident occurred. Signals, it is said, were heard up to Sunday, and perhaps a few of the strongest might have struggled against the deadly vapour longer than the rest.

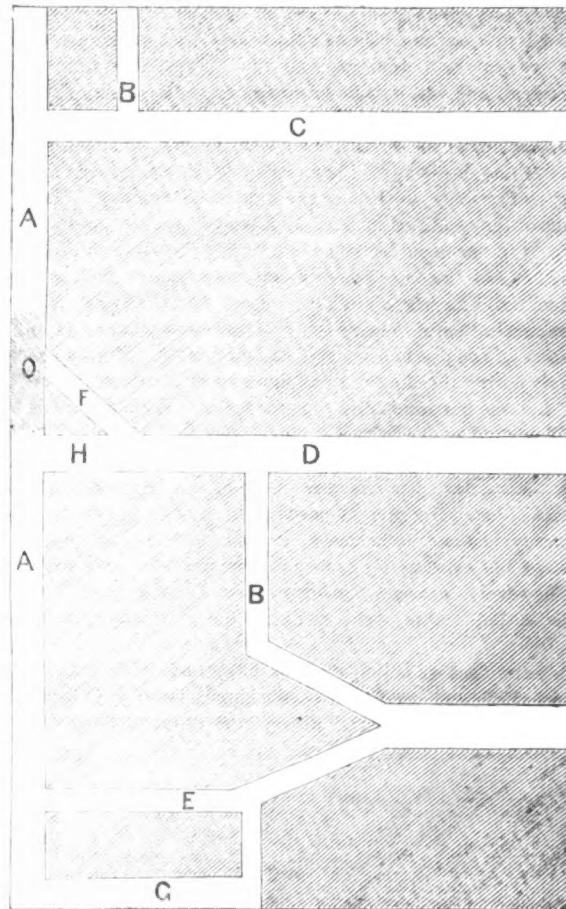
Though there might have been a considerable body of pure air shut up in the workings when the fall took place, yet the 199 men and boys and the thirty horses would soon consume this; and as the yard seam, in which they took refuge, generates carbonic acid gas in large quantities, the atmosphere of their living prison would very soon be fatal. It is the single consolatory fact throughout the whole of this terrible calamity that they were spared the prolonged agonies of starvation, and their passage from life to death was early and painless.

When the workings were sufficiently cleared of the gas to allow the men to remain in them for any time, preparations were immediately made at the pit's mouth for the reception of the bodies. During the whole of the day and night previous special engines had been arriving at the colliery with a load of coffins. These were moved up to a convenient position; and at last it was proposed that they should be lowered down into the pit and the bodies placed in them there. When it was found, however, that the process of decomposition had not gone too far, it was determined to bring the bodies to bank and identify them there. The tidings of the rapid progress of the sinkers had been spread abroad far and wide, and from earliest dawn on Saturday morning the crowd round the pit head had been increasing. From every quarter they tramped in, and by ten o'clock there must have been close upon 5000 people present. During the past week it had been very difficult to restrain the impatience of the men at the lengthened delay which took place in reaching the bodies, and it was expected that at this painful moment there would have been an outburst. Within the last two or three days, however, growing more reasonable, they have expressed themselves satisfied with the operations, slow and wearisome though they have been, and throughout the whole of the last sad stage their demeanour was admirable. Occasionally a stifled groan or a hysterical cry would be heard from the crowd as some well-known face slowly rose up out of the dark chasm, but for the most part a reverent silence was kept throughout. With the shaft in its present condition it was found impossible to lower a cage of the usual character, and the bodies were brought up in slings passed under the arm-pits. As each came to earth it was unslung, wrapped in a winding-sheet, and placed in a coffin which stood by on a truck. As each was identified his name was chalked on the coffin, and it was wheeled away from the platform and delivered over to the friends who stood waiting outside the barrier. The bodies of those men who lived in the village hard by were carried there at once, and for others who came from a distance there were hearses and carts in waiting. Still, this process was slow, and in leaving the colliery to get to the railway station the path lay through long lines of piled-up coffins, some of which had already received their ghastly burden and others were standing ready for it. The coffins were made in a peculiar fashion, the head part opening out on a hinge, so that it might be readily turned back for the relatives to cast a last look on the features of the dead. Some of the bodies were more decomposed than others, but on none had the gas had such an effect as to make their features unrecognisable. There were none of those horrible sights which are seen after explosions of firedamp, when all semblance of humanity is destroyed by the fiery blast. Most of the bodies bore the appearance of men who had gone off in a calm sleep; some few were discoloured, but on none of the features were there any other signs. Out of the pockets of some of the men as they were taken from the slings fell corn and other provender which they had taken from the stables below, thus showing that they were released before there was time for them to suffer hunger. About ten bodies an hour were brought to bank, and by five o'clock on Sunday morning 199 bodies, being the whole of those who had made their escape into the middle seam, were recovered. There is reason to believe, after most careful inquiry, that the deaths of these 199, with the five

killed in the cage on the occurrence of the accident, represent the whole extent of the sacrifice of life caused by the terrible catastrophe.

RELIEF OF THE DESTITUTE RELATIVES OF THE SUFFERERS.

A meeting held at Newcastle on Friday week to consider what should be done to raise a fund for the permanent relief of the bereaved was very successful. The Mayor presided, and among the speakers were the Bishop of Durham, the Earl of Durham, and Sir Matthew White Ridley, M.P. The Earl of Durham was much affected. It was ascertained that at least £17,000 would be needed for the permanent relief of the widows, orphans, and other sufferers. Her Majesty has sent £200; the Duke of Northumberland subscribed £300; the Earl of Durham, £200; Sir Matthew White Ridley, £100; Bell Brothers, 100 guineas; Elswick Ordnance Company, £100; and Sir William George Armstrong, 50 guineas. Before the proceedings had concluded the subscriptions from all sources amounted to the noble sum of £4000. Since then further contributions have been received; and a subscription opened by the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House, London, has already realised upwards of £5000. We doubt not that all classes will readily contribute to so admirable and necessary a fund, and are glad to observe that the men are joining together in many of the metropolitan workshops, &c., to add their mite in relief of the bereaved widows and orphans of the Hartley miners. The members of the London Stock Exchange set a noble example in the good work, nearly £1000 having been subscribed by them in a single day. The Lord Mayor is prepared to receive and apply any sums which may be sent to him.



AA. Shaft.
BB. Staple.
C. High main.
D. Yard seam.
E. Lower main seam.
F. Furnace drift.
G. Standage.
H. Where the bodies were found.
O. Where the obstruction took place in the shaft.

SECTION OF COLLIERY.

A meeting of the colliers and other workmen was held on Saturday last at Newcastle. They expressed themselves entirely satisfied with the arrangements made for the relief of the widows and orphans, and a resolution was adopted calling on the working men throughout the district to raise subscriptions in aid of the fund. Some of the speakers strongly condemned the single-shaft system, and it was resolved to present a petition to Parliament praying for a Select Committee to inquire into the general question, with a view to special legislation for the prevention of similar accidents. Mr. Dunn, the Government Inspector, was present. It would seem that the attention of the Government has already been directed to the subject, and that they contemplate legislation, as a letter from Sir George Grey to the inspector—apparently a circular letter intended for all the inspectors—was read, directing him to make a return to the Home Office of all the pits in his district which are worked by a single shaft, with their depth and means of ventilation, and asking for his opinion as to the expediency of an enactment that all pits shall be worked by two shafts.

EXTENT OF THE BEREAVEMENT.

The following is a statement, compiled by the clergy and parochial authorities, after a house-to-house visitation, of the bereaved families left destitute by the awful calamity at Hartley Colliery:—

Widows	103
Children	257
Sisters supported by brothers	27
Orphans	2
Parents supported by sons	16
Aunt supported by nephew	1
Grandmother supported by grandson	1
Total	407

Of the male population employed at this colliery only twenty-five remain alive. The families of the lost men reside in Colliery-row, Quarry-row, and Old Hartley; and all day on Friday week benevolent persons, including the Bishop of Durham, with his Chaplain, and a number of ministers of religion and ladies, went to and fro among the cottages administering such consolation as each case required. The immediate wants of the poor people have also been attended to, members of the Society of Friends being very active in that respect. Lord Hastings, who is the owner of the royalty of the mine, has also sent one of his stewards with special instructions to see that the necessities of the widows and orphans are attended to. The village, denuded as it is almost entirely of its "bread-winners," presented an affecting spectacle. The interiors of the cottages were neat and clean, furnished, as most pitmen's cottages are, with the eight-day clock, the chest of drawers and the four-post bed with chintz curtains. With the exception of some dozen or so of dwellings, the curtains were dropped, showing that death had entered the household, and that "Daddie would come no more home to the bairns." Most of the poor widows have put on decent black and few, except strangers from distant parts, but have friends staying with them, some of whom have come a couple of

hundred miles to be with them in their bereavement. Deeply affecting scenes occurred as relatives arrived, and the bereavement in some families is heavy. There are several widows left with large families—one poor woman named Oliver having lost her husband and six sons, with a boy that they were bringing up.

The larger portion of the interments—about 150—took place at Earsdon Church, in a piece of ground given by the Duke of Northumberland; and when the village streets, choked up with carts conveying dead and crowds of mourners following, were seen, the awful calamity was realised. The other bodies were interred at Horton and Cramlington.

SYMPATHY OF HER MAJESTY.

The following letter, addressed to Mr. Carr, the head viewer of the colliery, by command of her Majesty, was read by the Incumbent of Earsdon at a large religious meeting held on the pit head on Sunday:—

Osborne, Jan. 23, 1862.

Sir,—The Queen, in the midst of her own overwhelming grief, has taken the deepest interest in the mournful accident at Hartley, and up to the last had hoped that at least a considerable number of the poor people might have been recovered alive. The appalling news since received has afflicted the Queen very much. Her Majesty commands me to say that her tenderest sympathy is with the poor widows and mothers, and that her own misery only makes her feel the more for them. Her Majesty hopes that everything will be done as far as possible to alleviate their distress, and her Majesty will have a sad satisfaction in assisting in such a measure. Pray let me know what is doing.

C. B. PHIPPS.

CHARACTER OF THE HARTLEY MINERS.

The miners of New Hartley have the character of being a remarkably steady and orderly class of workmen. There is not a public-house within a mile and a quarter of the village, and several of the men were local preachers and class leaders among the various Methodist communities, and very many of them were pledged abstainers from intoxicating drinks.

Amos, the overman, who was in charge below at the time of the accident, and is, of course, among the victims, and who every one said would be found at his post whenever the mine was entered, which was the case, for he appears to have been stricken down by death after making the last "jowling," was a fine fellow; and Tennant, one of his deputies, was a remarkable character. He was a tall, noble-looking man. Some years ago, while this pit was flooded out with water, he fell down the shaft an extraordinary depth; but, by a wonderful providence, he escaped comparatively unhurt. He subsequently emigrated to Australia, whence, after trying his fortune at gold-digging, he returned home to his former employment. Great confidence was placed in the judgment of Amos and the energy of Tennant in bringing the men out of the pit, and into a place secure from the water. This they succeeded in doing, and, like true captains of industry, they died at their post. They had struggled up through the furnace drift after the accident, and had hacked and hewn at the obstruction in the shaft until the Sunday afternoon, when a fall of stone took place in the shaft which drove them away, and they were found lying at the post of danger, but the post of duty—the furnace—having died in mortal agony, the men and boys "in by" having subsequently slept quietly away.

THE CAUSES OF THE ACCIDENT.

Now that the excitement of recovering the dead is over and the last sad offices have been discharged, the next questions which arise are what were the causes of the calamity, and who, if any, were the persons responsible? These points will no doubt be thoroughly inquired into; indeed, there seems to be a much sterner determination to press for a precise answer to these questions than has ever been manifested on similar occasions. The feeling is not confined to the pitmen and others concerned in colliery operations, but it is fully shared by the general public at Hartley and in the neighbourhood.

As everybody knows by this time, the workings of the Hartley mine were reached by a single shaft, the diameter of which was 12ft. For purposes of ventilation this was divided into two equal parts by a wooden partition, called in mining language a "brattice," which ran down it from top to bottom. One side served as a downcast pit, by which the air was carried down to the workings, and, having been passed round them by the ordinary means, rushed to the surface again by the other half of the shaft, which thus became the upcast. For all purposes of ventilation this arrangement appears to have been perfectly adequate; at least, no complain's are made as to the quantity of air furnished to the men. It was not a fiery pit—that is, none of the explosive gases were generated in it, and probably some 20,000 cubic feet of air per minute would be all that was required. There were three seams of coal in the colliery—the upper, 240ft. from the surface; the middle or "yard seam," 180ft. below that; and the lower seam 180ft. still lower—making the whole depth of the shaft about 600ft. or 100 fathoms. Unfortunately, it was the lower seam which was being worked at the time. In the downcast were worked the cages for the passage of the men and minerals, and in the upcast worked the pumps, which were of great force. The pit is what is called a very "wet" one—that is, there is a large flow of water into it. The pumps were capable of lifting 180 tons of water at each stroke, and their average working was from five to six strokes per minute. The mine is but a short distance from the sea; in fact, from the pit's mouth you may see the masts of a small brig lying at anchor off the coast; and, as the water at the bottom of the pit is perceptibly salt, it is probable that the sea is the principal feeder. The engine from which the pumps derive their motive power is placed close to the pits, and the great beam to which their "spears" or rods were attached projected over the upcast and worked right over it at a considerable height. The water was brought up at two lifts—first to the upper seam, about 240 feet from the surface, and then to bank. There were, consequently, two sets of pumps and two spurs—one passing from the outer end or nose of the beam down the upcast to the pumps fixed in the shaft, and the other fixed to the hinder end of the beam, which worked up and down a "staple," or narrow shaft, communicating with the upper seam, and again, most unfortunately, with the upper seam only. On the morning of Thursday, the 18th, the beam, without warning, snapped in two, slightly in front of its axis. It was just making an up-stroke at the time, and the detached half fell, nose first, right into the centre of the shaft. It struck first against that part of the "brattice" which rises above the level of the ground, without doing it much damage, rebounded against the side of the shaft, and then went down, carrying with it all the bratticing and most of the timber with which the sides of the shaft were lined.

The cage, which was ascending the shaft at the time, was carried away, and the ruins stuck fast about six fathoms above the middle seam, thus blocking off all access to the men below. No satisfactory cause has yet been assigned for the sudden breaking of the beam. It is an immense casting, weighing more than forty tons. Looking at its massive proportions, it is easy to see how little any one could have expected such a failure. It is well proportioned, and the metal seems to be of excellent quality. The fracture has revealed a large hole in the casting, some six inches long and four inches deep, which at first sight appears to be a honeycomb, but which is, in fact, a natural shrinkage in the process of cooling, hardly to be avoided in castings of this size. All the engineers who have inspected it agree that it did not weaken the beam to any appreciable degree, and, in fact, that the breakage is not to be accounted for by any inherent defect in the beam itself. It has been suggested that one of the nuts on the lower part of the cylinder may have failed. Again, about a month ago, it was thought desirable to fix in new brasses for the beam to work on. For this purpose it was lifted bodily, by hydraulic power, three inches out of its bearings. One of the hydraulic bracks in the process, and the beam came down suddenly into the old bearings with a jerk. This, it is conjectured, first

fractured the beam, though no marks of a crack ever seem to have been discovered.

MEANS OF PREVENTING SUCH CATASTROPHES.

The next point to be inquired into is, why a passage was not made to the living tomb in which the men were inclosed until after five days' unremitting and, it may almost be said, unparalleled exertions? This is the most important point of all, for another beam like this may not break again for the next fifty years—in fact, such an accident has never happened before—but in pits worked in a similar manner the colliers may be shut up any day from a dozen different causes. Public opinion at once fixed upon the real cause of the terrible sacrifice of life in the use of a single shaft only, and it is of course evident that had there been a second shaft the great majority of these unfortunate creatures might have been brought safely to bank in a couple of hours. None need have lost their lives but those who were killed in the cage. The single-shaft system is undoubtedly a barbarous one, and it is to be hoped it will at once be prohibited. If such should be the result of this accident, the friends of these poor fellows will have the consolation that they did not die in vain. Borings were being made towards the workings of the old Hartley pit, close by, which, when the water had run off, would have effected a communication between the two mines, so that in a very short time there would actually have been two shafts in operation. A most inexcusable feature in the case is the fact that, without the necessity of sinking a second shaft, a communication might have been very easily effected with the lower workings, which, for purposes of ingress and egress, would have been just as valuable, and would just as surely have saved all the men's lives. As has been stated, there are three seams of coal in the mine. Between the lower and middle, a distance of thirty fathoms, there is a communication by means of a "staple" or elongated man-hole, furnished with a ladder, and it was up this that the men retreated to the middle seam from the lower, where they were at work when the accident happened. Between the upper seam and the surface there is another "staple," but there is no communication between the middle and the upper seam. The distance is thirty fathoms, and we have been told that it might have been made at a very small expense—£200, probably, would leave a margin. If it had been there all the men would have stepped to earth in a quarter of an hour safe and sound, and, instead of the late harrowing scenes, the poor widows would still have had their bread-winners by their sides. It may be said that the profits of the colliery would not afford the expense of making a new shaft, but it is to be hoped that some explanation will be given at the inquest why so cheap, so obvious, and so efficient a substitute was not recommended and provided.

We print this week two Engravings illustrative of the moving scene presented when the bodies were brought to bank and delivered over to their mourning relatives. We also give a section of the mine showing the different seams and the positions of the obstructing materials, and the place where the bodies were found.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The principal item of news from Paris is the opening of the Chambers and the Speech of the Emperor. This document will be found in another column. His Majesty's reception is said in some quarters to have been less enthusiastic than usual. The impression made by the Emperor's speech in Paris is favourable in so far as it contains nothing that leads to any apprehension of the disturbance of peace, though much disappointment is expressed that no hope is given of any reform either in the direction of Ministerial responsibility or the freedom of the press.

In Tuesday's sitting of the Corps Législatif the President, Count Morny, in his opening speech, said:—"In the whole world there does not exist a single Government nor a single people which is not distressed by a grave crisis. Old societies are dissolving, new ones are becoming modified. Amid this work of transformation, and notwithstanding the difficulties in commercial and agricultural affairs, France alone has remained calm, confident, and prosperous." Count Morny said that before the discussion of the Address came on he should wish to prohibit the delivery of written speeches. The report on the general state of the Empire, a collection of diplomatic documents, and the bill for the conversion of the Four-and-a-Half per Cent Rentes were then laid on the table of the House.

The preparations for the dispatch of the supplementary force of 6000 men to Mexico were being pushed on with all possible vigour, and it is stated that the troops would leave on the 29th, 30th, and 31st ult. from Toulon, Brest, and Cherbourg.

SPAIN.

The Minister of State declared on the 24th ult. in the Cortes that Spain would demand reparation from Mexico on account of the War of Independence. He stated also that Spain had received no official communication respecting any further resolution of France and England in reference to Mexico. He concluded by saying that Spain would fittingly support the interests of Mexico, and that Vera Cruz was held in the name of the three allied Powers.

SWITZERLAND.

The cantons of Bale (country), the Grisons, Zurich, and Argau have decided on introducing into their codes serious modifications relative to the Jews. Up to the present time they have been almost out of the pale of the laws in several of the Swiss cantons. It is on the urgent recommendations of the Marquis de Turgot, the French Ambassador at Berne, that the cantons in question have adopted this important reform.

ITALY.

M. Carli, an agent of Cardinal Antonelli, has been arrested at Leghorn. He was staying at the Capuchin convent.

A telegram from Rome announces that the Pope had been suffering for two or three days from fever. On Friday, however, his Holiness was able to leave his bed; and it is added that he immediately resumed his ordinary functions.

PRUSSIA.

The intended journey of the Crown Princess to England, on a visit to her Royal mother, is expected to take place shortly.

The Budget has been presented in the Chamber of Deputies. The receipts are estimated at 135,000,000 thalers and the expenditure at 140,000,000. To cover the deficit it is proposed to impose an augmentation of 25 per cent on the income tax. On the 23rd ult. the Minister of Justice laid on the table of the Upper House a bill on Ministerial responsibility, according to which the right of impeachment can only be exercised by both Houses conjointly. The right of the Crown to grant an amnesty to impeached Ministers does not absolutely depend upon the concurrence of the House which may first bring forward the impeachment. The Crown is, however, entitled to remit the penalty of imprisonment.

AUSTRIA.

The Vienna Press publishes an article intended to explain the motive of the sudden journey made a few days ago to Venice by Count Rechberg. The Austrian Minister, it declares, went there to consult his Sovereign on a remonstrance made by the Italian Cabinet, through the French Government, on the subject of the military demonstrations which have taken place in Venetia during the visit of the Emperor Francis Joseph. According to the Vienna journal, the French Government transmitted these remonstrances with the greatest possible delicacy; the Court of Vienna, in reply, declared that the manifestations at Verona, far from being meant to irritate, were only an indirect reply to the provocations so often of late repeated in the Italian Parliament with regard to Austria's Venetian possessions.

DENMARK.

The Danish Chambers were opened on Saturday. The King in his speech, which was read by the President of the Council, stated that the negotiations in reference to the constitutional affairs of Holstein were being continued, and expressed a hope that the interest which foreign Powers had in the maintenance of the independence of Denmark would lead to a satisfactory solution of the question. He also stated that the credits for the current year would be exclusively contributed by the kingdom and by Schleswig. This exemption of Holstein from compulsory taxation removes one of the principal impediments in the way of a satisfactory arrangement with the Federal Diet. The King also announced his intention to grant to Schleswig provincial estates, to be established on a popular basis, as soon as the issue of the conflict with the Federal Diet shall ensure it against foreign intervention.

RUSSIA.

The Russian Government has passed a very liberal measure in behalf of its Jewish subjects. By an Imperial decree all Jews having a diploma from a University will for the future be eligible for employment in any branch of the public service, and Jewish merchants will be permitted to take up their residence in any part of the empire. Moreover, those holding employment as professors or schoolmasters are to be exempt from taxation, and may receive decorations.

The Assembly of the Nobles was opened on Wednesday by General Suwarow, who, in his speech on the occasion, said:—"The welfare of the nobility is not possible unless a close alliance exists between them and the Emperor. It is the wish of the Emperor that the nobility should maintain their privileged position; but it is only by the Throne remaining established on a firm basis that the nobility can preserve their influence and be able to solve the important questions which have yet to be settled." In conclusion, General Suwarow promised to give his support to those wishes of the nobility which might be advantageous to the common welfare.

There is no news of importance from Poland.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

An Imperial decree has been issued announcing the publication of the Budget, and conferring full powers on Fuad Pacha, who assumes the functions of Grand Vizier and Minister of Finance. It is, however, said that Fuad Pacha is already desirous of being relieved of the responsibilities of office.

The ex-Minister of Finance has been deprived of his decorations and is to be tried for malversation.

The Paris papers publish a despatch from Constantinople asserting that the Porte, fearing that Garibaldi might effect a landing on the coasts of the Adriatic, had sent a superior officer to Omer Pacha with instructions for the latter to act in concert with the Austrian commander should such a landing take place. The same despatch asserts that there was a question of sending Fuad Pacha to London for the purpose of negotiating a loan.

The insurgents in the Herzegovina having definitively rejected the amnesty offered them by Omer Pacha, Dervish Pacha had commenced active operations against them, and advanced on Polizza, from which the insurgents withdrew, having first set fire to the houses. On the 19th ult. about 400 Turks suddenly attacked the insurgents at Banjani. There were killed and wounded on both sides. The insurgents are reported to have reoccupied all the places from which Dervish Pacha had driven them away, without encountering any resistance.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

Pekin is quiet, and the state of things in that city is satisfactory. The news from the Yang Tse and Hankow is also satisfactory. Canton is resuming its former importance as a place of trade. Ningpo is reported to be invested by the rebels. H.M. ship Scout has been ordered up to that city. Mr. Parkes was on board.

Rules have been framed by Mr. Alcock for the guidance of the English in Japan.

News from Cochin China announces that the French had taken possession of Rulo Candore.

THE INTERVENTION IN MEXICO.

At the date of the last advices from Vera Cruz things were a little unpleasant. Supplies from the interior were so completely cut off that the most lavish expenditure of love and money failed to procure a decent breakfast or dinner.

President Juarez had issued a proclamation declaring that hostilities had broken out between Mexico and Spain, and decreeing as follows:—"The port of Vera Cruz closed to commerce from the 14th; all Mexicans to be considered traitors who favour or aid the invaders; the period of granting amnesty to the revolutionists to be extended for fifteen days longer; authority given to the Governors of the different States at once to collect and organise the contingent force of the country, amounting in all to 52,000 men; Spaniards residing in the country to continue under the protection of the laws so long as they remain neutral."

General Uruga, Mexican Commander-in-Chief, had an interview with the English and French Ministers at Vera Cruz, and gave them notice that he would attack any force marching out of Vera Cruz. General Uruga had all the passes to Vera Cruz defended by 20,000 men. The Mexican Monitor believes that Mexico can put into the field 150,000 men, with a park of 100 pieces of artillery. It states that the Mexicans would make resistance at Tampico.

General Gasset had established a Custom House at Vera Cruz, and General Uruga had established another five leagues from the city.

The French Admiral was reported to be in high dudgeon with the Spaniards for having been in such a hurry to get into Vera Cruz before their allies were ready. Additional offence had been given by the Spaniards neglecting to hoist the French and English flags on the ramparts of Ulloa and over Vera Cruz.

The English squadron, under Commodore Dunlop's command, on its way to Vera Cruz, consisted of Challenger, Mersey, St. George, Barracouta, Sanspareil, Desperate, and one or two others. Admiral Milne was at Bermuda with the remainder of the fleet.

General Count de Lorencez, who has just been placed by the Emperor of the French at the head of the expeditionary corps to Mexico, will be, it is said, promoted to the rank of General of Division on the anniversary of the birthday of the Prince Imperial. An observation has been made that General de Lorencez cannot be placed, as Commander-in-Chief of the French troops, in a position inferior to that of General Prim, who commands the Spanish troops, and has the rank of Lieutenant-General. Count de Lorencez is the grandson of Marshal Oudinot, Duc de Reggio.

AUSTRIA AND ITALY.—Rumours still agitate the Continent in connection with the attitude recently taken by Austria towards Italy. It is denied that Austria has any intention of demanding an Italian disarmament. But, while most of the Austrian journals disclaim any intention on the part of the Government to adopt an aggressive policy of any kind, there is still made manifest a provocative and defiant tone towards Italy which may be calculated, and may perhaps be even intended, to produce an evil effect. One Austrian journal publishes an article of which the rhodomontade and bragadocio transcend almost the wildest extravaganzas of the New York Herald. In referring to Austria, it may be added that the Emperor has just created a new Ministry of Marine, and has confided the portfolio of the department to the present Minister of Commerce.

THE BLOCKING UP OF CHARLESTON HARBOUR.—From a despatch from Lord Lyons to Earl Russell we learn that Mr. Seward declares that the blocking up of Charleston harbour is only temporary; that the Federal Government will themselves remove the obstructions "as soon as the Union is restored"; and that the best proof of its being incomplete and partial is "that, in spite of the sunken vessels and of the blockading squadron, a British steamer laden with contraband of war had just succeeded in getting in."

IRELAND.

THE O'CONNOR DON, M.P.—The O'Connor Don, M.P., has thrown open to the public his woods and lawns, to carry therefrom timber to whatever amount they wish, and, where that is not available on other parts of his property, he has given directions to Thos. M'Dermott, Esq., to purchase coal, and to supply every means to make the tenantry comfortable. He has also given the widows and orphans on his estate a Christmas boon of 3s. each.

THE O'DONOGHUE.—The Knight of the Glens may yet become as remarkable a convert to constitutionalism and as great a stickler for British rule as D'Arcy M'Ghee or Colonel O'Reilly. The first symptoms of improvement have, at any rate, begun to exhibit themselves in his character. Some time since a medal of virgin gold, covered with symbolical references to his "patriotic" efforts, was sent to him from Australia by the Irish residents in that colony. It came, too, somewhat opportunely. He was still smarting under his removal from the commission of the peace, and the journals of his party instantly proposed that the presentation should take the form of a protest against his chastisement by the Government. They urged this idea warmly; and every day the public expected to see the announcement of some demonstration similar in character to the famous mass meeting in the Rotundo. But they waited in vain. At last it occurred that the O'Donoghue—at least so the rumour goes—intends to quietly abdicate his leadership of the "Irish people," and that the letter in which he resigned his connection with the committee appointed at the above meeting was intended as an indication of the more moderate policy he in future meant to pursue. Carrying out this resolution, it was also added he had refused to receive the medal in public.

SMITH O'BRIEN AND MR. SEWARD.—Mr. Smith O'Brien's offer of mediation between the Northern and Southern States of North America has elicited a reply from Mr. Secretary Seward. The Irish rebel is addressed by the uncompromising enemy of Southern rebels as "My dear Sir," and the warmth of the friendship existing between the two distinguished personages is manifested in one of the opening sentences:—"It is a pleasant circumstance, in these times of care and anxiety, to know that the generous friendship which was so long ago formed between us has on your part, as it has on my own, survived the accidents of time and distance." Mr. Seward, of course, thanks his officious correspondent for his offer to settle off the difficulty which is taxing the wisdom, courage, and pockets of the North, but he is quite unable to appreciate the soundness of Mr. S. O'Brien's views. He holds that society on the American continent "could encounter no reverse of its progress so disastrous as the division of the Union"; and, on the other hand, he thinks "that society in Europe has no evils before it equal to what would result from a revival of ambitions on the part of European States for dominion across the Atlantic." He is, therefore, resolved to struggle for the restoration of the Union—for the perpetuation of the "inspiring and elevating influences of such a political constitution and such a country."

STATE OF THE MIDLAND COUNTIES.—Accounts from the midland counties represent the signs of prosperity to be as numerous and as marked as they have been for many years in the month of January. During the last few weeks there has been a reduction in the prices of all sorts of provisions, except potatoes. The farmyards are fully as well stocked as usual at this season, with quite as many stacks untouched. Besides, there is rather less demand than in former years for discounting bills at the country banks, and the farmers are as well able as formerly to meet their liabilities.

THE IRISH POOR LAW.—A meeting was held last week, at the residence of Archbishop Cullen, Dublin, for the purpose of considering the best means of procuring an alteration in the Irish poor laws. There was a numerous attendance of Roman Catholic clergy, M.P.s, and gentry. The following were the principal resolutions adopted:—"That the moral classification in Irish workhouses requires to be attended to; that at present it is generally neglected; and that, in order to separate the virtuous and innocent from the ill-conducted and profligate in every workhouse, moral classification should be really and effectively carried out. That separate places of worship in every workhouse for Catholic and Protestant inmates are imperatively demanded. That the rearing of children in workhouses is open to the greatest objections, both moral and sanitary, and that power should be given to guardians to enable them to rear children out of workhouses, in families, until fourteen years of age. That, whereas in England and Scotland the Poor-law Commissioners are natives of these countries and profess the religion of the majority of the people, it is unreasonable and unjust that the Irish Poor-law Board should be constituted exclusively of Englishmen and Protestants, inasmuch as seven-ninths of the whole population and more than nine-tenths of the destitute poor in Ireland are Catholics."

SCOTLAND.

A KEEN POACHER.—Not many days ago a well-known legal practitioner in Perth went to defend a notorious poacher before the justices assembled not more than a day's journey from that city, and managed, by means of certain ingenious objections, to overthrow the prosecution. The defendant was well known, and nearly the whole of the gamekeepers and watchers in the district assembled to hear the trial. Observing their presence and counting up what few coppers he had at the time, the man quietly left the court, and after the case was over fell in with his agent at a public-house, when the following scene was enacted:—"Poacher—"I understand you've gotten me off, which is more nor I expected, and certainly more nor I deserved." Lawyer—"Yes; but where did you go when the case was on?" Poacher—"Way, the fact is I'm no ower rich; and, seeing a' the keepers there, I thought I might just as well tak my gun and get a bit beastie for you." Saying this, he dragged from a capacious inside pocket a perfect beauty of a hare, and continued—"Will you accept of this?" Lawyer—"Ay will I (taking hold of the hare); why, it's warm!" "Ay is't," said the poacher; "I've only just killed it."

THE PROVINCES.

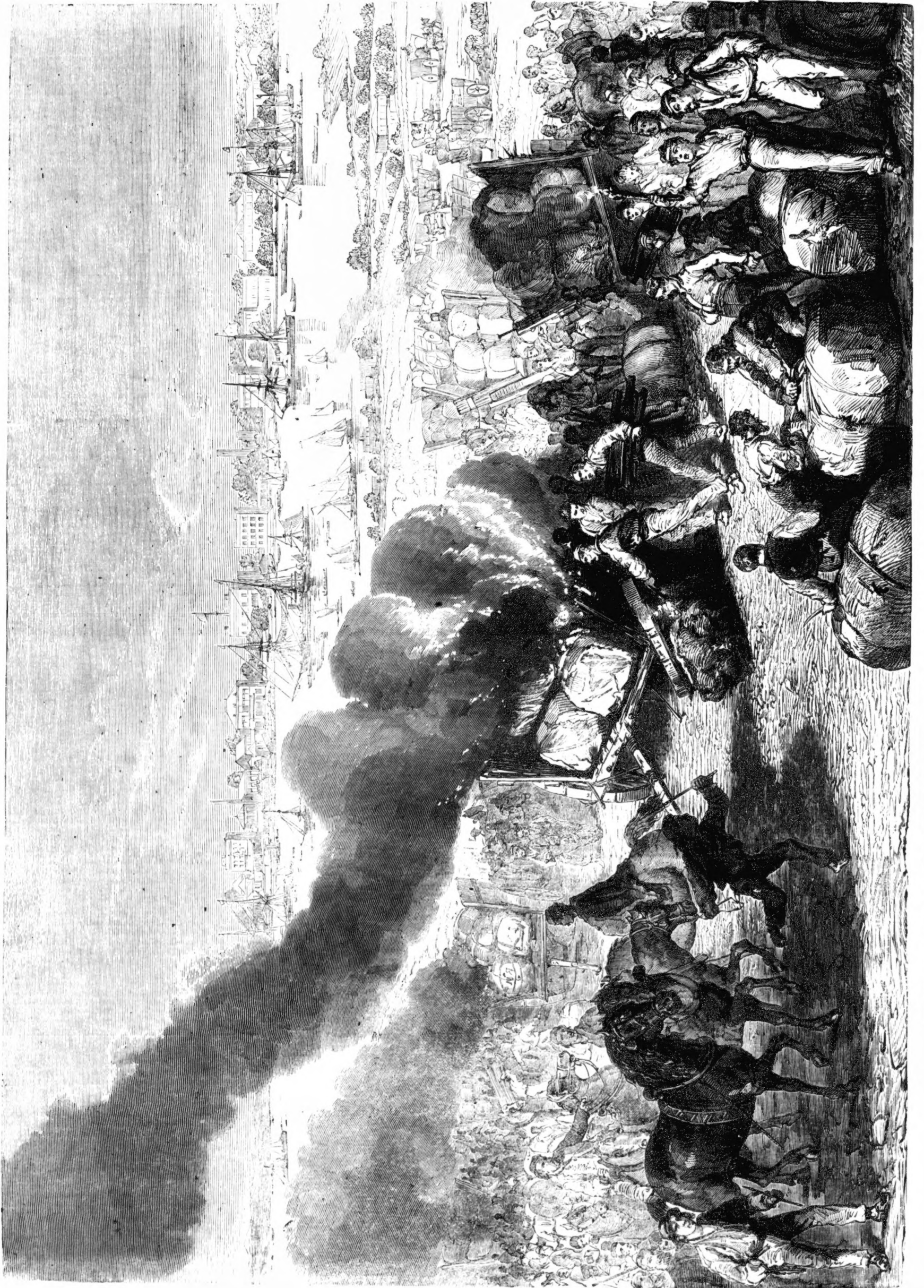
AN INTRACTABLE SON OF MARS.—During a fire which took place at Plymouth last week a body of military, under the command of Major Guile, turned out with the loaded engine to render such assistance as might be in their power. The Mayor, whose business it was to take the general management of affairs, walked up to the Mayor, and asked him in a respectful manner whether he was in command. "You stand back," was the authoritative reply. The answer, "I am Mayor of Plymouth," met with a low expletive, and further remonstrances and explanations were followed not only by rude language but by an order addressed by the Mayor to his men that they should push away the Mayor and those who accompanied him. Such, in brief, is the statement published in a local journal. This is certainly pretty treatment for the chief magistrate of an important town like Plymouth to receive from a military officer while simply discharging his duty to his fellow-townsmen. It is only fair to state that the other officers acted in a very different spirit, and that Colonel Crofton ordered the citadel engine out again, taking the command himself.

PROGRESS OF TELEGRAPHY.—At a dinner given in Liverpool on Saturday to Sir Charles Bright, of the Magnetic Telegraph Company, Sir Charles, in his speech, made a few very interesting statements referring to the progress of telegraphy in this country. Ten years ago, he says, the company's staff did not exceed a score of people; now it amounted to about 1500. At that time there was only one telegraph in the country, now the mileage was computed at 15,000. The total sum received for telegraphic messages in this country in a year amounted to the enormous sum of £350,000. This startling information will set at rest the question often asked by the uninitiated as to the payable nature of telegraphic lines. The Government line between Malta and Alexandria, Sir Charles says, produces a revenue of £600 a week.

MURDEROUS ASSAULT ON BOARD SHIP.—At Liverpool, on Tuesday morning, about nine o'clock, a murderous outrage was committed on board the ship British Queen, undergoing repairs in the Brunswick Dock. In a quarrel which took place between T. Green, the cook, and Enos Seth, the steward, the former stabbed the latter in the abdomen with a razor, laying completely bare the intestines. The man was taken to the Southern Hospital, but there is not the slightest hope entertained of his recovery. An intimation to that effect having been conveyed to the detective police-office, a magistrate took his deposition. The wounded man stated that the prisoner joined the ship at St. John, N.B. When in the gally together Seth spoke to the prisoner about some part of his duty, and Green having replied in pertinently, Seth went to strike him, when the prisoner drew the razor and inflicted the severe wound described. The prisoner will be detained in custody until the fate of Seth is decided.

ATTEMPT TO POISON A WIFE AND CHILD AT SHEFFIELD.—Sheffield has obtained of late an unenviable notoriety among the towns of the kingdom. The latest crime imputed to one of its inhabitants is not the least atrocious, though it has nothing to do with the trade outrages which characterised the other atrocities. In this case a man is charged with attempting to poison his wife and child. The couple had been living on bad terms of late, and on Monday morning the man rose early and left the house. His wife rose afterwards and made tea for her breakfast, which had a peculiar taste. She put a portion into a bottle, threw the rest away, and then made some other tea, which was free from harm. The man has been apprehended and committed on remand; but there is a bitterness about the woman in her mode of giving evidence which would render it desirable carefully to examine her testimony.

MRS. MARTINEAU'S HEALTH is in a better state than it has been for many years, and she now works at her retirement at Ambleside with a degree of comfort to which she has long been a stranger.



THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.—THE CONFEDERATES BURNING A CONVOY OF COTTON, OPPOSITE BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. PHILBERT.)

CONFEDERATES BURNING THE COTTON BEFORE BEAUFORT.

NOTWITHSTANDING the intention of the Federal force to take possession of the cotton in the South it would appear, from the trifling quantity which has reached New York, that they have not hitherto been particularly successful. When the Confederates fell back from Port Royal, which is the finest harbour, next to Charleston, in South Carolina, there was at Beaufort a considerable quantity of that fine cotton for which the province has so long been celebrated; but, carrying out the determination with which they destroyed every description of portable property rather than allow it to fall into the hands of the enemy, the Southern planters and their companions in arms set fire to the valuable bales and retired, leaving no opportunity for the seizure of any available prizes which might have increased the triumph of their opponents.

At the Government sale in New York of Sea Island cotton confiscated by the national forces in South Carolina, there were in all 73 bales sold, weighing about 25,700lbs. The prices paid varied from 63c. for the ginned down to 18c. for the unginned. The total proceeds of the sale were 14,231 dols. 12c.

CHIAVONE.

THE name of Chiavone has become so inseparably connected with the history of the brigandage to which Italy has been lately subjected that our readers will doubtless be interested by the following extracts from a letter describing a visit to the celebrated chief:—

"Since the month of June—that is to say, from the time that the brigand outrages began to develop in the Neapolitan provinces—I have taken a personal part in pretty well all the events of which the environs of Naples, the Basilicata and Calabria, have each by turn been the theatres.

"I had already seen, dead or alive, all those chiefs of the lawless band who were famous either for their exploits or their antecedents, and it remained alone for me to visit the most celebrated of them all, Chiavone.

"Many people denied his existence altogether, and held the opinion that the name was no more than a watchword made use of by the leaders of distinct bands who appeared almost simultaneously at points distant from each other; but these reports served only to stimulate curiosity. I determined to discover the truth for myself, and started from Naples one fine day for that purpose.

"As Chiavone is the subject of this letter, I may well omit any description of our journey. Having arrived at Sora, my first visit was to the Intendant Homodi, a brave Lombard, sent, on account of his well-known energy, to administer the affairs of a very difficult locality. Here we were very quickly assured of the reality of Chiavone's existence, since we had shown to us an enormous bundle of papers containing no fewer than a hundred and seventy-two separate accusations, and were then permitted to read a letter which Chiavone himself had secretly sent to a rich proprietor of the district threatening that unless he received 2000 crowns the unfortunate gentleman

CHIAVONE, THE NEAPOLITAN BRIGAND.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.)

would pay the penalty of his neglect by being seized and carried off by the brigands.

"Once officially informed of the actual being of the man I came to seek, I lost no time in acquainting Homodi with my object and expressing my determination to seek the terrible chief in person and

obtain a portrait of him. The Intendant was utterly at a loss to understand why a man apparently in the possession of his senses should hazard his life from a purely artistic motive. However, when he was convinced that I spoke seriously, he put himself entirely at my service, and, after forty-eight hours' preparation, I set out to Veroli, the city of the Roman States nearest to the frontier. Here there was considerable difficulty, and, about fifteen different individuals having become mixed up with my wild enterprise, three days were consumed in mere talking and the futile search for any reliable information as to the course I had best pursue for the attainment of my object. At length, however, somebody put me in communication with somebody else who knew a person who frequently saw Chiavone, and two days afterwards I was conducted to a house where I found myself in the presence of a woman, apparently about thirty years old, and with a very striking physiognomy, rendered all the more remarkable by the raven hair and strongly-defined eyebrows. My guide, having assured her that she might confide in me, left the house, and we were alone together. Her name was Vincenza Sacqui; and I at once made known to her the object of my journey, my desire to become acquainted with the chief, and my intention of taking his likeness.

"My new acquaintance made no secret of the danger of such an enterprise, but at the same time promised me her assistance, although she had little expectation of success, since she was merely a go-between through whom the correspondents of Chiavone in Veroli remitted money, letters, and provisions; and there was much to fear from the woman who lived with the brigand, and was so jealous that any recommendation from Vincenza would be a decided disadvantage. My resolution remaining unshaken, however, she assured me that I could at least stay in perfect safety at her house; and I ratified the bargain by an instalment of the sum which I had agreed to give her, subject to my safe return to Veroli. This little matter being arranged, we agreed to meet at midday, and as it was market-day she started off to buy the provisions destined for the chief. At twelve o'clock we waited outside Veroli with three mules and four asses. Vincenza arrived with her purchases, which were placed upon two of the asses, whilst she mounted a third. I, with my photographic apparatus, bestrode a mule, while the case of instruments was fastened securely on a steady-going animal. The donkeydrivers and muleteers (for each beast has its separate conductor), with a woman who was Vincenza's servant and carried on her head a basket containing several bottles of liqueurs, formed a caravan which presented a sufficiently picturesque appearance.

"In about four hours we arrived at a village called Scifelli, where my friend Vincenza lived and carried on a business as a tobacconist and dealer in strong drinks, and I may as well confess that the appearance of the neighbourhood caused me to regret the pacific disposition which had led to my leaving my pistols along with my



A FEW OF CHIAVONE'S BAND.

pipers at Veroli. The whole place consisted of, perhaps, a hundred houses, at the doors of many of which sat armed men playing at cards, while others stood regarding us with suspicious looks. Meanwhile we were beset with all the brats of the place, who begged remorselessly, and the women pointed significantly to the baggage and my own dress.

"To go back was useless, however; and, whatever might come of it, we were fairly in the trap. Our conductress, however, had sufficient influence to alter the menacing looks which greeted our entrance by a sign, and her authority over the children, who fell back at her command, seemed to intimate that she was a person of no small importance amongst her neighbours. Having reached her house, she invited us to enter while the negotiations relative to our projected visit were conducted. To the inquiries of the muleteers whether they were to stay or to unload their animals and depart, she replied by a sign which meant that they were not to budge till further orders. The shop was filled with brigands playing at cards and drinking. Two men wounded—one in the leg, the other in the shoulder—were half lying on a bench and leaning against the wall; another, evidently suffering from fever, and on his way from the mountains to the hospital at San Giovanni, endeavoured to appease his consuming thirst by drinking eagerly from a bottle of rum. This indeed seemed to be the retreat of the sick, wounded, and infirm.

"As Vincenza entered, each of them advanced to inquire if she had executed some commission. To one she gave shoes, to another a pair of fowls, to a third pocket-handkerchiefs. Neckkerchiefs, hats, trousers, and an immense variety of miscellaneous articles, were all duly delivered to those who needed them. Her coming had been already signalled, and fresh arrivals from the mountain came down to claim their share of the purchases and to take back the provisions to their leader. Amongst these men there appeared a jovial fellow of herculean size, dressed gaily enough in a velvet jacket and breeches, evidently brand new; white stockings, and highly-polished shoes. He looked like a well-to-do farmer, and presented to Vincenza a sheet of paper containing two or three lines of writing and ornamented with a large seal. She kissed the signature and delivered to him some packets of tobacco and cigars as well as a few pipes. He was followed by another man, dressed in the uniform of a French infantry soldier of the 25th Regiment.

"In answer to our astonished inquiries, the man stared stupidly enough, and replied, with a grin, 'Non capisco.' I was immediately reminded of those purchases made on behalf of Francis II. in the Ghetto at Rome.

"A barrel of wine was then lifted on to the shoulders of the jovial Hercules, and bottles of spirits, fresh bread, fowls, veal, vegetables, fruit, and macaroni were distributed to his companions, who at once proceeded to carry them off to the head-quarters of Chiavone.

"The shop being nearly cleared, Vincenza took aside the brigand in French infantry costume and one of his comrades, to hold a conference, which lasted about half an hour, and I could see the hostess making use of a series of the most lively gestures, which seemed tolerably effectual, since she came to me smiling to inform me that everything could be arranged, as the Captain (a little red-faced man) had agreed to conduct me to the General. The case of instruments was transferred from the mule to the head of one of two women (*ciociarsse*) who were to accompany us; and, after giving us a packet of cigars and a glass of rosoglio all round, our hostess wished us a speedy return, and I fairly started on the journey.

"The little Captain was a talkative fellow enough, and certainly did his best to entice conversation; but I remembered 'the least said soonest mended,' and preserved a discreet silence by the pretence of not understanding more than half his questions. He informed me, amongst other things, that the General had declined to see some German officers who had waited three days for that purpose at the Convent of Casa Maria; while an Austrian Colonel and two Bavarian Captains sent by King Francis II. had been taken by the superior of the convent to visit the great man, had inspected his preparations, and had only returned in the evening after giving him important instructions. It appeared that the provisions brought by these delegates had become a delicious recollection both with the Captain and his friend the Lieutenant in uniform, and one particular fowl stuffed with truffles brought for Chiavone still filled them with the liveliest emotions.

"After a walk of nearly three hours we came in sight of a two-storey house standing on the highest peak of the mountain. 'We are at the end of our journey,' said the Captain.

"The women put the case upon the ground while the Captain and his followers entered the house, leaving me to seat myself on the rocks outside. Half an hour elapsed, and I was growing impatient, when he came out again, gave something to the women, who carted and took their departure, and once more went in, leaving me outside. This I couldn't stand; so, having waited as long as politeness demanded, I took the liberty of knocking at the door with my stick, an appeal which was answered by the appearance of about sixty men, all armed, who came out and defiled before me, each of them counting his money and shaking a purse in his hand. We had arrived at a time when the men were engaged in the interesting duty of going up to receive their pay, and the delay was explained. The Captain came out immediately afterwards, and informed me that the General was waiting; so, following him up a flight of stairs, I entered a large room which was only dimly lighted by two or three lamps placed under images of saints. The furniture consisted of a few chairs, a small table, a large cupboard, and a couple of kneading-troughs; while several muskets and other small arms decorated the walls. In the room were two women and four men, only one of whom rose on our entrance: he was a man of middle height, athletic figure, and with a frank and open countenance. Advancing to meet me, he embraced me after the Italian fashion, saying, 'You are welcome; all that I have is at your service.' I was slightly overcome by such a gracious reception, and asked his permission to stay and look about me, at the same time promising to retire immediately if he desired it. After reflecting for a few minutes he gave me the required permission, and we prepared for supper, which was soon ordered to be served, and consisted of 'every delicacy of the season.' At about one o'clock I retired to rest upon the bed which the chief relinquished in my behalf, himself occupying a mattress, covered with a cloak.

"At eight the next morning I had taken a photograph of the General, first in ordinary costume, and afterwards, at my request, in the appointments in which he appears in the Engraving.

"After breakfast, which was as plentiful as the supper of the previous night, the chief narrated to me some particulars of his history.

"Lion's Alonzo (called Chiavone) was born at Sora in 1827; his grandfather Valentin had been one of the Lieutenants of the band under the command of Gaetano Mammone, who was long the terror of the province, Valentin, having economised the product of his portion of these crimes, bought a house and some land, and left at his death a small fortune, which was afterwards increased by his son, who was named Gaetano after his grandfather Mammone. The youth of Chiavone was similar to that of most of his class. He worked as little, and ate and drank as much, as possible. He became a soldier, but, failing to pass beyond the grade of sergeant, returned to Sora, and was made Grand Forester of the commune. It was at this period that he began to reveal himself as the worthy successor of his father and grandfather. Charcoal-burners, woodcutters, and all the unknown hunters of the forest were his tributaries, and he exercised feudal rights, which, while they saved an immense deal of trouble and prevented any legal proceedings against marauders, at the same time served to enrich him at the expense of the public, whose servant he had become. This of course could not last for ever, and the forester who had made everything so comfortable to all parties was ultimately deprived of his power. The future brigand chieftain, however, continued some sort of domination over the peasants and mountaineers

with whom he had sustained such pleasant relations. At the end of September, 1860, after the siege of Capua, Colonel Lagrange went from Gaeta into the Abruzzi, and Chiavone was one of the first to lead his band to the meetings, where his advice was taken on several occasions. Later still, Lagrange being compelled to retire to the Pontifical States after the entry of the Piedmontese into the Abruzzi, Chiavone returned peaceably to Sora and contrived to gain admission into the National Guard. During the time that he remained in the force, his character appeared exemplary enough; but when the Intendant of Sora returned, on the 1st of December, accompanied by a battalion of Italian troops, our chief decamped quietly but promptly, and sought refuge at Casa Maria.

"The Intendant had taken as his body guard a troop of the National Guards of Casalvieri; and Chiavone, who regarded the Casalvierians with a dislike shared by his neighbours of Sora, sent word that, unless they were quickly disbanded, he would descend the mountain at the head of his band of peasants and chase both guards and Intendant from the province.

"Things coming to this pass, the Intendant, who was not paid for his courage, fled at once and abandoned his men to the mercy of Chiavone, who entered the city on the 3rd of December, at four o'clock in the afternoon, when a Casalvierian who had not run away was killed, as well as an old Garibaldian. During his few days' occupation of Sora he reinstated the insignia of Francis II.; but, strange to say, he professes a great respect for Garibaldi, and would not suffer his bust in one of the public buildings to be destroyed with that of Victor Emmanuel, but removed it from the hands of some of his men. Having driven away the Intendant as he threatened, and being supplied with some resources for his followers, the chief returned to the mountains, where he reinforced his band. His general quarters were, as they now are, at Scifelli, and his recruiting-station when men come from Rome by way of Terracina is the Cistercian Convent of Casa Maria, where his followers take the oath of allegiance to Francis II. and his representative, General Chiavone.

"He now has regular correspondence with Rome; and, indeed, just after our conference the mail-bags came in, brought by couriers appointed for the purpose of conveying communications of the Bourbon party to their bandit General three times a week. He possesses portraits of Francis II. and his Queen, beneath which is inscribed by the Royal hands 'Al mio carissimo amico e Generale Luigi Chiavone.'

"The camp is situated on a plateau of the mountain, where wooden barracks have been constructed for the men; and there are sheep, cattle, and poultry for the supply of food.

"Besides two pieces of ordnance, Chiavone has a large quantity of ammunition.

"He has now about four hundred followers, who each receive four carlins a day beside their rations. Nearly a hundred of these fellows are dressed in the uniforms of the French soldiers, which have been bought from the Jews at Rome after the departure of the regiments.

THE ROMAN QUESTION.

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN FRANCE AND ROME.

AMONG the diplomatic correspondence laid on the table of the Corps Legislatif on Tuesday is a note from M. Thouvenel to the Marquis de Lavalette, French Ambassador at Rome, dated Jan. 11, of which the following is a summary:—

In recognising the kingdom of Italy the Emperor's Government acted under the conviction that the restoration of past dynasties was no longer possible.

Among the Catholic monarchies three only—namely, Austria, Spain, and Bavaria—have refrained from renewing official relations with Turin. No Cabinet, however, thinks of reacting by force against the order of things inaugurated in Italy. Whether openly proclaimed or tacitly admitted the principle of non-intervention has become the safeguard of peace in Europe.

The Court of Rome certainly does not expect foreign assistance for the recovery of its lost provinces; and I cannot believe that, for the sake of interests whose success is doubtful, it would consent to provoke a most terrible configuration.

The lessons of experience bid the Holy See resign itself—without renouncing its rights—to practical transactions which would restore tranquility in the bosom of the Catholic world, which would renew the traditions of the Papacy that has for so long a time been a shield to Italy, and would reunite to it the destinies of a nation so cruelly tried and restored to itself after so many centuries. It is necessary for us to know whether we must persist or abandon all hope of seeing the Holy See, while taking into consideration accomplished facts, apply itself to the study of a combination which would secure to the Sovereign Pontiff the permanent conditions of dignity, security, and independence necessary to the exercise of his authority. These ideas being accepted, we will employ sincere and energetic efforts to ensure the adoption at Turin of a plan of conciliation, the bases of which we should settle with the Government of his Holiness. Italy and the Papacy would then cease to be in opposite camps, and would soon return to their natural intercourse—thanks to the moral obligations which France has guaranteed. Rome would, in case of need, find the necessary support on the very side where danger seemed to threaten her. Such a result would excite a lively feeling of gratitude and satisfaction throughout the Catholic world.

M. Thouvenel requests M. de Lavalette to communicate this note to Cardinal Antonelli and to the Holy Father himself. In a letter addressed to M. Thouvenel on the 18th ult. the Marquis de Lavalette states that he had an interview with Cardinal Antonelli for the purpose of communicating M. Thouvenel's note of the 11th ult. In previous interviews he had already expressed to the Pope the desire of the Emperor to reconcile Rome and Italy; but the Holy Father, although listening with kindness and condescension, always replied, "Let us await events." M. de Lavalette continues:—

I was more afflicted than surprised when Cardinal Antonelli replied to all the considerations I had submitted to him by an absolute refusal, declaring that any transaction between the Holy See and those who had deposed it was impossible, and that it did not rest with the Sovereign Pontiff any more than with the Sacred College to cede the least particle of the territory of the Church.

I then observed to Cardinal Antonelli that I completely put aside the question of right, and that my only object was to offer the Papal Government an opportunity of emerging from a state of things disastrous to its interests and threatening to the peace of the Christian world.

Cardinal Antonelli expressed his thanks for the affectionate interest shown by the French Government. He denied that there was disunion between the Sovereign Pontiff and Italy, and said that, if the Holy Father had ceased to hold intercourse with the Cabinet of Turin, his relations with Italy were excellent. Italian himself, and the first of all Italians, his Holiness suffered when they suffered. He witnessed with grief the cruel trials the Italian Church had to bear. As regards entering into any compact with the spoilers of the Church, continued Cardinal Antonelli, we shall never do it. Any transaction on this ground is impossible. The Sovereign Pontiff, as well as the Cardinals, before being nominated, bind themselves by oath never to cede any of the territory of the Church. The Holy Father will therefore make no cession of that nature. A conclave of Cardinals would have no right to do so, neither would a new Pope, nor any of his successors from century to century.

With reference to the question of your Excellency whether there is any hope of an arrangement, I believe it to be my duty to reply in the negative.

A letter from Cardinal Antonelli to M. de Lavalette, dated the 18th ult., states that, having received the orders of the Holy Father, he (Cardinal Antonelli) confirms the answer which he had already given verbally to M. de Lavalette.

MR. YANCY AND THE SLAVE TRADE.—Mr. Yancy, who at present represents the Confederate States of America in England, in a letter addressed to a daily contemporary, thus states his views on the slave trade:—"I have never advocated the African slave trade. I do not know two public men in the South of any note who have done so. The people there are and have been almost unanimously opposed to it. The State laws, so long in force, prove this, and another striking fact. There have not been one hundred slaves imported into the South from any quarter for the last fifty-three years. I know of but one small cargo, and I never heard of another. The slave trade is carried on between Africa and Cuba alone; Southern men have nothing to do with it. Yankee captains, Yankee ships, Yankee shiphandlers, and Yankee capital are the notorious mainstays of that trade."

AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

GENERAL NEWS.

We have telegraphic news from America to the 15th ult. General Cameron had resigned the secretaryship of war, having done so, it is said, at the suggestion of the President. He had been appointed Minister to Russia in the place of Mr. Cassius M. Clay, who will take a command in the Federal army. Mr. A. M. Staunton had been chosen to fill the vacant secretaryship, but neither his appointment nor that of General Cameron to Russia had been confirmed by the Senate. Some of the American papers state that the resignation of Cameron was in consequence of the position he took in regard to freeing the slaves of rebels, his opinions on that question being at variance with those of the President and some of his colleagues in the Cabinet; while others unhesitatingly declare that Mr. Cameron's retirement arose out of the malversation of public money exposed in a recent investigation by a Committee of Congress, in the course of which very gross misapplications of funds were discovered, and, Mr. Cameron being seriously compromised, his resignation or dismissal was unavoidable. The published reports certainly prove that, if there was no corruption going on, the expenditure was at all events lavish in the extreme, and that in scarcely any instance had value been obtained for the money. Indeed, corruption seems to be almost universal among American public men, and favouritism and speculation the order of the day. The "noble army of contractors"—in which body are numbered lawyers, doctors, merchants, editors, and even clergymen—appear to be having a splendid time of it. The money seems to "go" with marvellous facility, whatever difficulty Mr. Secretary Chase may have in getting it to "come."

We have intelligence from New York of a battle having been fought on the 12th of January, on the main land, in the vicinity of Port Royal, between General Lee's forces and the Federal troops, resulting in the total defeat of the latter, with a loss of 1700 killed and wounded. The Washington Government, it is stated, has taken steps to suppress the news of this reverse, which, nevertheless, has reached a highly respectable party in Liverpool through a private channel.

General Burnside's expedition sailed from Fortress Monroe on the 11th ult. According to the Southern accounts the ultimate destination of the expedition is Norfolk. Reconnaissances from Cairo continue to be made, but no general forward movement from that place has yet taken place. The new steam-frigate Pensacola, built at the Washington Navy-yard, succeeded in passing the Confederate batteries on the Lower Potomac without sustaining any damage. It is stated that the Pensacola will reinforce General Burnside's expedition. The French steamer Calinet went to Norfolk from Old Point on the 10th ult. with despatches for the French Consul. The Confederates were making great preparations for the defence of Norfolk. General Garfield officially reports that he has routed the Confederates under Humphrey Marshall, in Kentucky, and occupied Prestonsburg.

The main subject attracting public attention at present are the future financial measures to be adopted by the Federal Government. The opinion universally prevalent is, that the only plan for the Government is at once to inaugurate a system of heavy taxation, and thus confirm public confidence in the Federal securities. It is supposed that Congress will pass a bill for the issue of 100,000,000 dollars in Treasury notes.

The Legislature of the State of Georgia had recently adopted joint resolutions to the effect that the separation of that State from the Union is final and irrevocable, and that they will under no circumstances entertain any proposition from any quarter which may have for its object a restoration or reconstruction of the old Union on any terms or conditions whatever. Governor Letcher, of Virginia, in his message to the Legislature of that State, had recommended the reiteration of the Georgia resolutions by the Legislature.

Colonel Sam Colt, the inventor of the famous Colt's revolver, died at Hartford, Connecticut, on the 10th ult.

Mr. Seward had reported that salaried Consuls had been appointed at various ports in England and Canada, as well as at Malta and in the West Indies, for the purpose of giving information to the Federal Government of the proceedings of Southern agents.

The New York World publishes a list of 131 lighthouses destroyed and light-ships removed by the rebels since the war began. The Charleston lighthouse on Morris Island was blown up by order of the rebel military authorities on the night of the 25th of December.

PROCEEDINGS IN CONGRESS.

The Senate has passed the bill for the relief of the owners of the British ship *Perthshire*.

In Congress, during the discussion on the bill for making an appropriation to send American goods to the English Exhibition, Mr. Owen Lovejoy made the following remarks:—

I oppose this bill, as it is enough for us to have been humbugged, dishonoured, and disgraced by England.

Mr. Kellogg asked if it was the action of the British or the Federal Government that caused the disgrace?

Mr. Owen Lovejoy said, in reply, he understood how it was that disgrace was all America could bear, and continued:—

We marched up to it sweating drops of blood, and yet we are asked to say we did it cheerfully, and that we appropriate money for commissioners to appear at England's exhibition. Having submitted to disgrace, the least we can do is to acknowledge it, and stay at home till we can whip England. I hate the surrender! I hate the British Government! I here avow and record that hate, and declare it inextinguishable. I cherish hate while living and breathe it to my sons, whom I charge, if there is war with England, to enter the war. I trust the rebellion will soon be suppressed. We can then avenge the insult we have received. We will then stir up Ireland. We will appeal to the English Chartists and to the French inhabitants of Canada. We will join hands with France and Russia to take England's proud Eastern possessions, and we will take away the crown from the English Government before we have ceased. I trust in God that time will come. I believe we should have been stronger for a war with England, for we should have felt the necessity of making short work of the rebels.

The House tabled the bill by a large majority.

THE FEDERAL ARMY.

The letter of the Boston correspondent of the *Morning Post* has the following remarks on the state of the Federal Army:—

The difference between the two armies is this—the Northern Army consists of good men and poor officers, and the Southern Army of good officers and poor men. The balance is in favour of the South, as good officers can do more with inferior soldiers than poor officers with soldiers of a superior character. Soldiers will follow their officers anywhere; and Southern officers mostly advance towards the foe, while too many Northern officers "advance backward," as the Irishman said, and then they are followed by their men to destruction. The Southern soldiers improve under good leading, and the Northern soldiers become demoralised under bad leading. There are good Northern officers and bad Southern officers, but the rule is as stated. The volunteer system is a failure; and each regiment is scarcely anything but a political "mass meeting," with "wire-pullers" instead of officers, a chairman instead of a colonel, and a host of secretaries in the place of captains. These officers have the military titles, and that is all that is military about them, except their awkwardly-worn dresses, in which most of them appear to be about as much at home as a pig would be in pantaloons or petticoats. If an officer threatens to enforce discipline, he is threatened in his turn with political defeat on his return home, should he become a candidate for office, and most likely he entered the army only as a sort of ante-chamber of Congress or some other low service, in which plunder is large and honour small. Our volunteer takes into the camp the notions of the caucus, and when he sees his officer get drunk—a sight that he can enjoy any hour of every day of the week, Sundays not excepted—he jumps to the conclusion that he, too, can get drunk, and so he intoxicates himself. The "free and equal" right to make a beast of himself he will exercise, and so the service is lessened in effectiveness daily. Some vigorous men manage to keep their commands in good condition, and General Banks's army is said to be worthy of the name, and fit to go into action. Personal character does much to lessen the evil effects of the volunteer system; but most of our Generals are like women—as libellously described by the poet—having no character at all. The regular Generals despise the volunteers, which is natural, and they let the volunteers see that they despise them,

which is very foolish. There is at least one letter in Boston from a high member of General McClellan's military family in which it is stated that the reason why the General has made no advance from Washington is, that he has no confidence in the volunteer officers, who are utterly unfit for their places, and who, from sheer ignorance and incapacity, and not from any want of courage, would so deport themselves in the field as to bring on another panic. It is a cruel situation for a General to be placed in, that which our chief holds; for everybody is talking about his great army and wondering why he does nothing with it; whereas that army is inefficient in exact proportion to its size, because the larger our armies the greater must be the number of its good-for-nothing officers, the greater its chances of falling into irretrievable confusion in the field, and the greater would be the incurable evils that would proceed from its becoming subject to a panic, the occurrence of which would seem to be inevitable.

THE CONFEDERATE STEAMER SUMTER.

A LETTER from Gibraltar, dated Jan. 20, gives an account of the Sumter's doings in the Mediterranean:—"On Saturday morning signal was made from the look-out on the summit of the rock that the Sumter was six miles to the eastward, capturing two large Federal ships. The news, as may be imagined, caused the greatest excitement, and everybody rushed out to catch a glimpse of the privateer and her prey. The seizure was accomplished simply enough. No defence could be made. A boat's crew was sent on board, the Federal flag hauled down, and the thing was done. The cruiser was evidently used to her work. No time was lost in searching the prize, the few valuable effects were removed, the match was lighted, and in another moment the blazing ship was fast drifting away with the current. When evening closed the flames were still visible, darting upward in fitful flashes on the eastern horizon. The first ship taken was laden with sulphur, consigned, as the master endeavoured to make out, to Baring Brothers; but, as Captain Semmes afterwards remarked, sulphur being the principal ingredient of gunpowder, and its exportation from England being just at this time prohibited, it was considered as well to destroy it, especially as the master had no papers to show. The other vessel taken—a large barque—proved to be laden with an English cargo, so she was released, and came in here yesterday."

An Algerian paper of the 22nd ult. publishes the following:—"On Monday, between ten and eleven in the evening, a well-sustained cannonade at sea excited the population of Algiers. Two police agents were immediately sent to Pescade Point, in which direction the guns were heard. The coastguard officer on duty gave the following report:—"Two vessels, about six miles out at sea, were engaged in combat. When the fight was over one of the vessels hoisted a flag on her mizen and went out of sight. The combat lasted one hour." The ships were supposed to be the Sumter and a Federal steamer."

"On Wednesday a steamer, with a red funnel with a black stripe at the top, was signalled off Cape Matifou. She has three masts, heavy canvas, and stern deep in the water. On reaching Cape Matifou she suddenly tacked, as if giving chase to some vessel, and was lost sight of. She was again seen in the evening off Point Pescade. This vessel has all the appearance of a pirate. She appears to mount about twenty guns, and looks like a trader turned into a vessel of war. She hoisted no flag while cruising in the Bay of Algiers. It is generally believed here that she is the Sumter, which left Cadiz on the 17th, and which gave chase to the vessel she attacked on Monday evening."

AFFAIRS OF HESSE.

THE dispute between the Duke of Hesse and his subjects, and the recent dissolution of the Chambers of that State, give an interest to the following historical sketch of the course of political events in Electoral Hesse since 1831, which appears in a Parisian contemporary:—

Electoral Hesse became a Constitutional State in 1831, but in 1848 the Hessians considerably improved their Constitution by several new organic laws, by which they hoped to limit the prodigality of their Sovereign, the Elector, who was too fond of contracting loans, and cared little about the burdens he imposed on the existing or future generations. Finding that, under the improved Constitution, he could not borrow without the consent of the deputies, the Elector determined to overthrow that Constitution. For that purpose he wanted a Minister who would stick at nothing, and such men may always be found if the seeker will stoop low enough to look for them. The Elector's choice fell upon a certain Hasenpflug, a Hessian by birth, who had been in the Prussian service, but from which he was expelled for peculation after a scandalous trial, which ended in his condemnation to several weeks' imprisonment. This man was selected by the Elector for the office of President of the Council, and soon showed that he was a very proper instrument for the business in hand. After vain attempts to corrupt and intimidate the Chambers, he dissolved them, and carried matters with so high a hand that in a few months the whole country revolted, and both himself and his master were obliged to fly. Just at this conjuncture Austria was recovering from the shock of 1848, and thought it a piece of good fortune to have a monarchical restoration to make and a Constitution to destroy, both of which objects she effected after a very faint show of resistance on the part of Prussia. The Hessians were obliged to receive back their Elector and his Minister, who, under the protection of foreign bayonets, published a decree abolishing the laws of 1848 and rendering the Constitution of 1831 a dead letter. The protecting Powers—Austria and Bavaria—however, became somewhat ashamed of what they had done, and recommended the Elector to grant the Hessians another Constitution, which was promulgated on April 13, 1852. The people of Hesse reluctantly submitted for several years, but when the power of Austria was shattered by the Italian war the liberal tendencies of Germany again began to show themselves. The National Verein arose, the Hessian Chambers, which had already appealed to the Frankfurt Diet against the Elector's proceedings, boldly demanded the re-establishment of the Constitution of 1831, and their Session was at once abruptly closed. Meanwhile, the Elector, with a view to calm the increasing excitement without any sacrifice of his power, elaborated a new Constitution, combining the principles of 1834 with the "improvements" of 1852, and this new fundamental pact was published on the 30th of May, 1860. The Hessians, however, while electing a Chamber under the provisions of the new pact, protested their adherence to their old Constitution, and in its earliest sittings the new Chamber declared that it was not the legitimate representative of the country, and voted an address to the Elector, demanding the Constitution as it existed before 1850. To that step he replied by dissolving the Chamber. When the Chamber met again on the 3rd of January last, it was animated with the same spirit, and re-elected as its President M. Nebelthaus, who, in the preceding Session, had most energetically protested against the Elector, and in favour of the old Constitution. The Government commissary declared this election illegal, and left the assembly, followed by the two deputies composing the Ministerial minority. Five days afterwards, the Chamber having declared that it would never abandon the rights granted to the country by the Constitution of 1831, it was again dissolved.

MR. EVERETT ON SECESSION.—The Hon. E. Everett made a speech on the 7th ult. in the hall of the Academy of Music in New York:—"I scruple not to say that all the Powers of Europe united could not in seven years have brought the scourges or evils of war so near to the vitals of the people as this execrable Secession has done in seven or eight months. Then for a moment let us try and look into the future. If the South has not been willing to live in peace under a Government which Mr. Stephens (the Vice-President of the Confederation) has declared to be the most beneficent of which history gives any account, but for the frivolous pretext which we have been considering has chosen to plunge into the Gulf of war, how, when, and on what terms can we ever expect to live in peace hereafter any longer than may be necessary to accumulate the means of a new war and to find a pretext for plunging into it? Do you say the different sections of the country can make treaties? Treaties! I should like to know whether treaties are more binding than Constitutions—whether acts of ratification are more sacred than oaths of allegiance, which every one of these leaders now has upon his soul? Is it not enough, my friends, to make an angel weep, I had almost said, tears of blood? Here are men of common sense, you must admit—of education and experience in affairs—men who aspire to what ought to be the honoured name of statesmen—to see them not only so recreant to the memories of their fathers and the heroes of the revolutionary age but so dead to the voice of history—so blind to the experience of all other nations—so reckless of the great lessons of history as to think that in a country like this the path to prosperity can lie through the bloody gates of treason and rebellion, and that the permanent welfare of a great Confederate Republic can be promoted by its being broken up into thirty, forty, or fifty independent jealous principalities."

OPENING OF THE FRENCH CHAMBERS.

THE EMPEROR'S SPEECH.

THE French Chambers were opened for the Session, on Monday, by the Emperor in person, who delivered the following speech on the occasion:—

GENTLEMEN SENATORS, GENTLEMEN DEPUTIES,—

The year which has just passed, despite certain anxieties, has seen peace consolidated. All the rumours purposely propagated on imaginary pretences have fallen to the ground of themselves before the simple reality of facts.

My relations with foreign Powers give me the fullest satisfaction, and the visits of several Sovereigns have contributed still more to strengthen our bonds of friendship. The King of Prussia, in coming to France, has been able to judge for himself of our desire to unite ourselves still closer with a Government and with a people who are advancing with a firm and sure step towards progress.

I have recognised the kingdom of Italy, with the firm intention of contributing, by sympathetic and disinterested advice, to conciliate two causes the antagonism of which disturbs the public mind and conscience everywhere.

The civil war which desolates America has seriously compromised our commercial interests. Nevertheless, so long as the rights of neutrals are respected, we must confine ourselves to the utterance of wishes that these dissensions may soon be terminated.

Our establishment in Cochinchina has been consolidated by the valour of our soldiers and sailors. The Spaniards associated in our enterprise will find, I hope, in those countries the reward of their courageous support. The Ananites make a feeble resistance to our power, and we should not be at war with any one if in Mexico the proceedings of an unscrupulous Government had not obliged us to join Spain and England in protecting our fellow-countrymen and in suppressing attempts against humanity and the right of nations. Nothing can arise out of this conflict of a nature to shake confidence in the future.

Free from foreign cares, I have directed my attention more especially to the state of our finances. A candid statement (*exposé sincère*) has placed the real state of affairs before you. I shall only say a few words on the subject. The public expressed astonishment (*s'est étonné*) at the sum of 963,000,000, to which the floating debt has risen; but that debt, if it be honestly checked, need give no cause for anxiety, for it had already attained that figure before 1848, a period when the revenues of France were far from approaching what they are at the present moment. Moreover, let first be deducted from this amount the 652,000,000, which weighed upon the State at a period anterior to the Empire; then the 78,000,000, repaid to the rentiers-holders (*rentiers*) at the time of the conversion; then the 233,000,000, odd unsecured, caused in the last two budgets by distant expeditions, and which it might have been possible to secure by a loan.

It will be seen that, since the establishment of the Empire—thanks, it is true, to the consolidations successively operated—the deficits (*découverts*) have not increased in proportion to the wants for which it was necessary to provide and to the advantages obtained during the last ten years. In fact, gentlemen, it would not be just to forget the increase of expenses caused by the annual interest of the loans contracted for two wars, which have not been devoid of glory; the 622,000,000, employed by the Treasury in great works of public utility, independently of the three milliards appropriated by companies in the completion of 6553 kilometres of railways; the establishment of the network of telegraphic communication; the improvement of the condition of nearly all the servants of the State; the improvement of the soldier's welfare; the *cadres* of the army placed on a footing in keeping with the exigencies of peace and the dignity of France; the transformation of the fleet and of all our *matériel* for the artillery; the restoration of our buildings for public worship and of our public monuments.

All these outlays have given a beneficial impulse to public labour throughout the empire. Have we not seen cities re-embellished, companies enriched by the progress of agriculture, and our foreign commerce increase from two milliards 600 millions to five milliards 800 millions? In short, by the sole increase of public prosperity the resources of the State have increased by many hundreds of millions.

This enumeration shows us the full extent of the financial resources of France; and yet, whatever may have been the origin of the deficits—however legitimate may have been the expenses—it was prudent not to increase them. With this object in view, I have proposed a radical means to the Senate, which confers upon the Legislative Body a higher control and associates it closer with my policy. But this measure was not, as may easily be supposed, an expedient to lighten my responsibility. It was a spontaneous and serious reform, of a nature to force us to be economical. In renouncing the right to open supplementary and extraordinary credits in the interval between the Sessions, it was nevertheless essential to reserve the power of providing for unforeseen necessities.

The system of transfers provides the means, and it has the advantage of limiting that power (*puissance*) to really urgent and indispensable wants. The strict application of this new system will assist us in placing our financial system on the soundest basis. I count upon your patriotism and intelligence to second my efforts by your willing support.

The Budget will be presented to you immediately on the opening of the Session. It is not without regret that I have decided to propose to you a readjustment of certain taxes, but by the progress of our revenue I am convinced the increased burden of taxation will only be temporary.

You will first have to turn your attention to the project of law relative to the conversion of the Four-and-a-Half per Cents, the object of which is, by equitably conciliating the interests of the Treasury and those of its creditors, to prepare the consolidation of the debt.

Gentlemen, I have frankly stated to you the actual position of affairs. You are aware that whenever an opportunity of a useful reform has presented itself I have resolutely taken advantage of it. I shall not, nevertheless, maintain less intact the fundamental bases of the Constitution, which have already acquired for the country ten years of order and prosperity. I am aware that it is the fate of all men in power to see their best intentions misinterpreted and their most praiseworthy acts distorted by party spirit; but those who raise this outcry are powerless when the confidence of the nation is possessed, and when nothing has been neglected to deserve it. This sentiment, which displays itself on every occasion, is my most precious reward and my greatest strength. Should unforeseen events occur, such as the dearth of provisions and scarcity of labour, the people may suffer; but in their justice they will not hold me responsible for their sufferings, because they are aware that all my thoughts, all my efforts, all my acts, incessantly tend to improve their condition and increase the prosperity of France.

Let us not delude ourselves as to what we still have to accomplish, but, at the same time, let us congratulate ourselves at having traversed ten years amid the quiet of satisfied populations and the union of the great bodies of the State.

Let us persevere in our task with energy, and let us put our trust in Providence, who has always given us visible proofs of His protection.

ARRIVAL OF MESSRS. MASON AND SLIDELL AT SOUTHAMPTON.—Messrs. Slidell and Mason, the Confederate Commissioners, who ought to have reached Southampton on Wednesday, the 27th of November last, in the La Plata, arrived there on Wednesday in that very ship, exactly nine weeks afterwards. They embarked on board the British ship Rinaldo, at Boston, bound for Halifax, on the 2nd ult. Owing to a furious gale, the Rinaldo could not make Halifax, and, after trying ineffectually for four days to do so, she ran for Bermuda. Here the English Admiral on the station offered to send the Commissioners home in her Majesty's ship Racer, or convey them to St. Thomas to catch the West India packet. The latter was preferred. They acknowledge having been treated in the most handsome manner on board the Rinaldo and at Bermuda by the British authorities. They were received at Southampton by the officers of the Confederate steamer Nashville and other gentlemen. A large crowd gathered together in the dock to catch a glimpse of men who have cost this country so much money and England and all Europe such anxiety. No demonstration was made on their landing. They only reached St. Thomas two hours before the La Plata left there for England. They complain of bad treatment in Boston. Mr. Mason left by the 11.30 a.m. train, and Mr. Slidell by the 5 p.m., both for London, the latter on his way to Paris, where his wife and daughters had gone to await his arrival.

THE TRENT AFFAIR.—THE LAW OF NATIONS.—When Mr. Seward's despatch on the Trent prisoners arrived in this country, stating various grounds on which they might have been detained at the very time their release was effected, Earl Russell stated, in reply, that while he cheerfully accepted the result he could not acquiesce in his arguments, and he added that on a subsequent occasion he would give his reasons for dissent. That task he has now executed, and his despatch appears in the *Gazette* of Tuesday. The principles of Mr. Seward from which his Lordship specially dissents are two—namely, that ambassadors or agents, or their despatches, are to be regarded as contraband of war; and next, that either persons or goods, of whatever kind, proceeding in a neutral ship from one neutral port to another, are in any case liable to capture. These principles, he says, are repudiated by all writers on international law; whether English, American, or Continental. In conclusion he notices the "singular passage" in Mr. Seward's despatch in which that gentleman says that he would have detained the prisoners if the safety of the Union required it. "His frankness," says his Lordship, "compels me to be equally open, and to inform him that Great Britain could not have submitted to the perpetration of that wrong."

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND SPEECHES.

LORD CLARENCE PAGET ON THE STATE OF THE NAVY.

On Saturday evening last the members for Sandwich, Lord Clarence Paget (Secretary to the Admiralty) and Mr. E. Knatchbull-Hugessen, addressed their constituents in the Townhall, Deal. Lord Clarence Paget, having touched upon the affair of the Trent and commented upon the course Government had pursued regarding it, said we were, at the period at which the seizure of the Trent became known, entirely unprepared, as he might say, for war; but the people of England had determined to maintain their rights, and they had a Government jealous of the national honour and fully resolved to do their country justice. But no Government could have done what had been done by the present Government without being backed by the unanimous opinion of the country, and they would see how this had become manifest. The first thing necessary was to dispatch a vast body of troops to defend our loyal colony of Canada; but it was no easy job to send from 10,000 to 11,000 men across the Atlantic in the middle of winter. The Government knew the energetic people they had to deal with, and that it would be necessary not only to get our army across to Canada, but to get it there in the shortest space of time possible. Now, what happened? Every great shipping company came to the Admiralty to offer their vessels, neither stipulating nor asking for anything. "Here," said they, "are our steamers; take what you like, and pay us what you like." The railway companies came forward, saying, "Let us know where you want to send troops; we will give up our line to the conveyance of troops alone;" and all the authorities at the ports were as eager and anxious for the success of the expedition as the Government itself. Herein lay the strength of England—the readiness of her people to co-operate with the Government in the hour when their rights were to be maintained. This was a strength nothing could resist. What followed would form, he believed, an episode in the history of the nation. Ten days after the Government arrived at the decision to strengthen our army in Canada the first troops embarked, and at the end of three weeks every soldier was on his way. And it was not merely throwing a body of troops on board ship with muskets on their backs; the whole paraphernalia of war had to be prepared, waggons, ambulances, commissariat, horses, and everything complete, and the army was ready to go into a campaign immediately it stepped foot on Canada. It was followed by the provisions and relays required to follow up an army; so that the whole organisation and equipment of the body of men sent to Canada was completed in this country, and this, he thought, was an episode that would not soon be forgotten. It was also incumbent on the Government to reinforce our fleet, and they had seen by the newspapers that it had been necessary to send large reinforcements across the Atlantic. In the course of three weeks the squadron on the coast of North America had been more than doubled. The reinforcements consisted of twelve heavy frigates, and the frigates of the day were enormous ships, larger than anything which existed in former days, and were the perfect panoply of war. It was not only requisite that we should reinforce largely from other stations, but we likewise had to commission a number of ships. He saw many naval officers and seafaring men around him, and he asked them to listen to this, and to remember that this was without drawing at all on our reserve. All who watched the movements of the Navy knew that the difficulties of manning a ship had been proverbial. A line-of-battle ship had often been five or six months fitting out, and he had seen reports of cases in which there had been four, five, or six months' delay dependent on obtaining a pleasant Captain. But this was what occurred:—On the 2nd of November the *Phaeton* was commissioned at Sheerness. She was a magnificent 50-gun frigate—a line-of-battle-ship in disguise—and carried 600 or 600 men; and she left for Spithead on the 7th, five days afterwards, fully manned and ready to go across the Atlantic. The *Orlando*, a still larger frigate, the largest in the Navy, was commissioned at Devonport on the 17th of December, and on the 24th she sailed for Halifax fully manned; and the *Shannon*, which was commissioned on the 17th of January, was ready for service on the 22nd. He told them these facts, not in a boastful spirit, but because he knew it would please them to learn that this country was in a state of preparation in the event of her being called on at any time to arm herself. At this moment we had three or four frigates' crews ready to go on board to-morrow if wanted; and to what was it due? On this he must be suffered to moralise a moment, especially as he saw a great many of his friends, the boatmen of Deal, present. For a great many years considerable prejudice had existed against the Navy. The merchant seaman had supposed that if he went on board a man-of-war he was committing himself to a hell afloat, from which the sooner he could escape the better. That had been the opinion of sailors generally; but things were changed now. In consequence of the liberal policy pursued by the country and Parliament a state of things was being brought about which caused the seaman to regard the Navy as a boon instead of a misery. The capability of effecting this reform was owing to the liberality of the country and of Parliament. He could go to the House of Commons and ask for anything for the seaman, quite certain that no reasonable request would be refused. Lord Clarence also went into a statement of the efforts made to establish an efficient Naval Reserve of volunteers, which, he said, had been attended with the most successful results, as the merchant seamen, officers as well as men, were now joining the Naval Reserve in large and most satisfactory numbers.

Mr. Hugessen followed with a short but energetic address, devoted to matters of domestic interest.

MR. HUBBARD AT BUCKINGHAM.

Mr. Hubbard, the Conservative member for Buckingham, addressed his constituents there on Friday night week. The Townhall was crowded on the occasion, and the hon. member met with a hearty welcome. In the course of his speech he congratulated his audience on the defeat of the scheme promoted last Session by the Liberation Society—a society which he denounced as revolutionary, and a conspiracy formed to overthrow the Constitution of the country. He announced his intention to persevere in his efforts begun last Session for removing the inequalities of the income tax, particularly as it pressed on the industrial classes. He congratulated the meeting on the escape we had had from an American war, and expressed his conviction that now both parties had come to an inconvertible currency the war would die of exhaustion. His conviction was that the interests of civilisation and humanity were bound up in the formation of two independent States on the northern continent of America.

MR. ADDERLEY ON THE BRITISH COLONIES.

Mr. Adderley, M.P., has been delivering a lecture on the British colonies at Saitley. He protested against the system at present existing by which the people of this country were so largely taxed for the benefit of the colonies. He argued that in times of peace our colonial fellow-subjects should pay for their own defence, and that England should no longer be required to maintain military establishments for their protection.

SIGNORA MARIO ON ITALY.

Signora Mario delivered a lecture on the Italian question at the Whittington Club, London, last week. She described the varied events of Garibaldi's campaigns in a manner which possessed the charm of personal reminiscence, and showed what an infinite debt of gratitude the Italians owed to the Mazzinian party for both the idea and the means of their redemption. In alluding to America, she protested emphatically against war between Great Britain and the United States, or the recognition of Southern independence, as an event which would be disastrous to the cause of Continental freedom.

THE HOUSES OF LORDS AND COMMONS.—During the recess all the members' benches of both the Houses of Lords and Commons have been recovered—the former with red and the latter with green morocco leather. The Kamptulion carpet, which for the last eight years has been down in the corridors, committee rooms, library, and elsewhere, has been taken up, and a chocolate-coloured, neat patterned oil-cloth, corresponding with the encaustic pavements, placed in its stead.

ROBERT O'HARA BURKE, THE AUSTRALIAN EXPLORER.

WE lately published some details of the melancholy fate of the party of intrepid men who, for the first time, succeeded in crossing the Australian continent from Melbourne to the Gulf of Carpentaria—thereby solving problems which had for many years occupied attention both in the colony and at home. We now present our readers with a Portrait of Mr. Burke, and another Engraving depicting his burial in the wilderness, near Cooper's Creek, by the party sent in search of him and his companions, all of whom—save one—together with himself, fell victims to starvation in that wild and nearly uninhabited region. Into the conduct of those whose duty it was to have furnished the exploring party with supplies we will not now enter; it will doubtless be rigidly inquired into in the colony, and the neglect and misconduct—if such there were—of the parties concerned be visited with meet punishment. We prefer to occupy ourselves with recording a few particulars which we have been enabled to collect of the lives of two of the men who so nobly sacrificed themselves to the faithful performance of the great task they had undertaken. Robert O'Hara Burke, the leader of the expedition, was born at St. Clerans, Galway, Ireland,

and was in the fortieth year of his age when he died. He was partly educated at home, and afterwards, for the higher studies, in Belgium. Subsequently he entered the Radetzky Regiment of Hungarian Hussars in the Austrian service. Here he displayed great assiduity in military studies, soon came to be regarded as a most efficient cavalry officer, and at an early period obtained a captaincy. The eventful political changes of that year of Continental disquietude, 1848, led to Mr. Burke relinquishing the Austrian service. Afterwards we hear of him as holding a command in the Irish mounted constabulary, when he was for some time stationed in Dublin. On resigning this office to emigrate he received several very flattering testimonials, demonstrating that at that time, as continually since, he had the ability to secure the respect and esteem of his companions and fellow-officers. Mr. Burke arrived at Hobart Town in 1853, but appears to have soon proceeded to Melbourne, where he at once obtained an appointment as acting-inspector of police, under Mr. Mitchell. In this capacity he remained till the close of 1853, when he was transferred to a command at Carlsruhe. In 1854 he was advanced to the Beechworth district, to relieve Mr. Price, the police magistrate, and with a step in promotion to the post of district-inspector. During the progress of the Crimean war Mr. Burke obtained leave of absence to enable him to visit England, where he hoped, with the interest he possessed, to have been enabled to share the glory and the peril of the grand struggle then going on between Russia and the Allied Powers. In this hope he was disappointed by the termination of the war, upon which he returned to the colony and reassumed his command in the mounted police force. In 1858 Mr. Burke was removed to Castlemaine, where he was stationed when he obtained the appointment of leader of the Victorian Exploring Expedition. From the moment it became probable that he would be selected to fill this responsible post Burke is said to have diligently prepared himself for it. He at once commenced an active examination of the records of the previous explorers, so as to become thoroughly acquainted with the personal experiences of Australian pioneers of discovery, and well informed as to the actual knowledge of the interior and remote coasts already on record. He likewise entered upon a course of regular training, taking severe pedestrian exercise, and accustoming himself to fatigue and privation of every possible kind that an attempt to traverse the vast untrodden wilds of Australia was likely to bring to his experience.

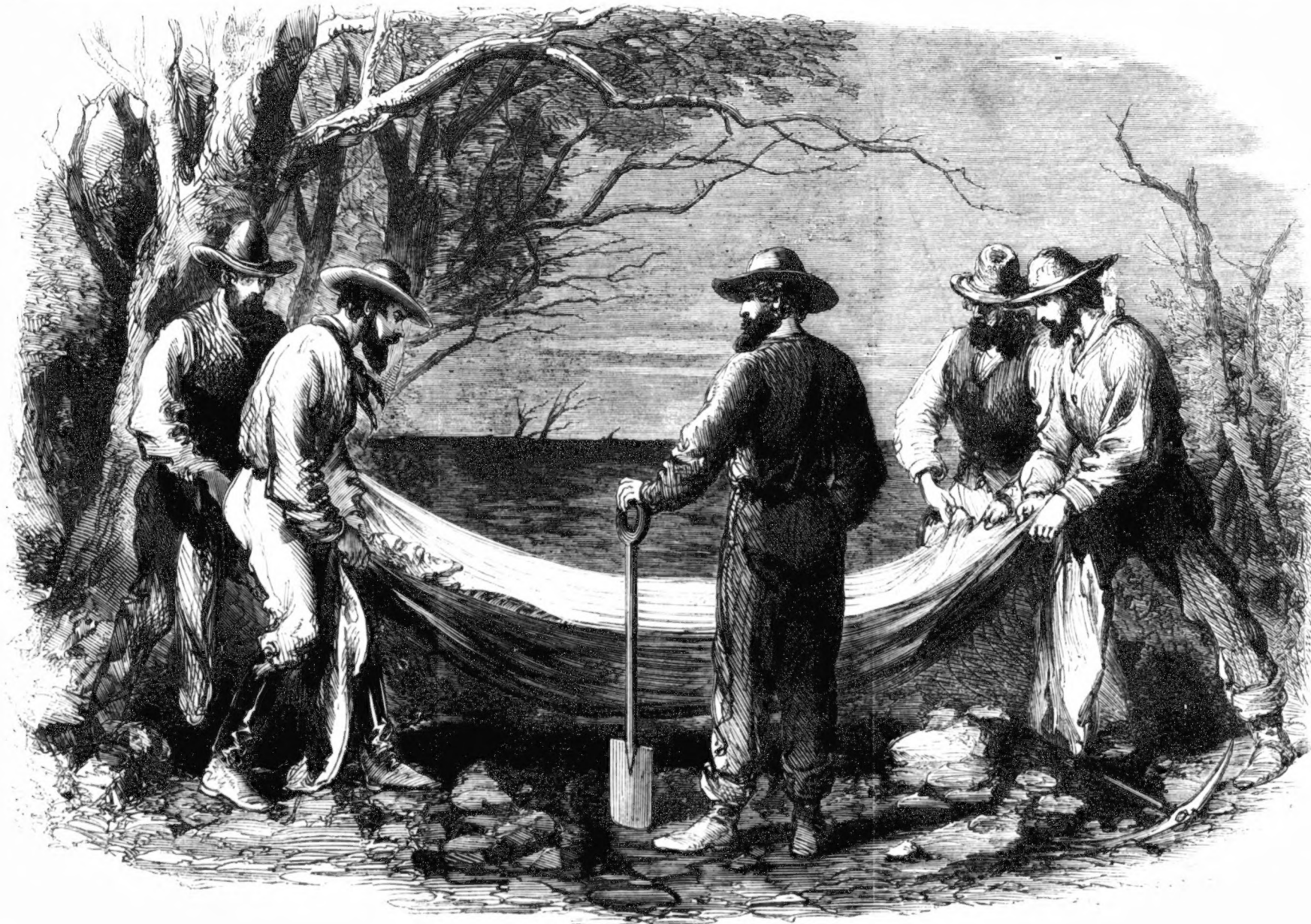
Of William John Wills, the sharer of Burke's perils, sufferings, and glory, we are informed that his father was a physician at Totnes, in Devonshire, and Wills was designed to pursue the study of the same profession. With this object in view he sought with ardour, as the pupil of his father, the attainment of the various branches of knowledge required in this profession, and for four years exhibited the most unremitting application to such studies. In chemistry and the experience of the medical schools he became specially dis-



ROBERT O'HARA BURKE, THE LEADER OF THE AUSTRALIAN EXPLORING EXPEDITION.

tinguished for proficiency. He had received an excellent academical education at the Grammar School of Ashburton—a public school of note, as being endowed with scholarships by the famous William Gifford, and also by Dr. Ireland, Dean of Westminster. Wills arrived in the colony in 1853, and at first obtained a situation at the Royal Bank Station, Deniliquin. His father emigrated the succeeding year and settled at Ballarat, where Wills assisted him for a time in his profession. Subsequently he obtained employment in the service of the Government as an officer in the Survey Department, under Mr. Byerley, and there displayed his characteristic assiduity and proficiency. Having acquired a knowledge of and interest in astronomical and other sciences to which the Observatory is devoted, he obtained, through the recommendation of Mr. Ligar, the Surveyor-General, a situation as assistant in that establishment. Here he remained for two years, when the opportunity presented itself of offering to join the Exploring Expedition. Wills, it appears, had long entertained a strong wish to be connected with such an enterprise. So long ago as 1855 he frequently spoke of a longing desire to explore the interior of Australia. He also expressed a belief at the time that he should be among the first who ever should succeed in crossing to the Gulf of Carpentaria. In 1858 there was a proposal brought before the public by a Dr. Catherwood to explore the interior of the country. This project, however, was abandoned; but Wills, who happened then to be on the River Wannon, immediately, on chancing to hear of it, walked to Ballarat, a distance of ninety miles, in his anxiety to join the proposed expedition. He was twenty-seven years of age at the time of his melancholy yet honourable death.

Of the heroism displayed by Burke's gallant band it is impossible to speak too highly, or to over-estimate the value and importance of the discoveries they made. How intensely must all regret that these brave fellows were not destined to receive the honours due to their undaunted conduct, or to witness even the beginnings of that extension of industrial enterprise which will no doubt ere long result from their labours in demonstrating that the interior of the vast Australian continent is a rich, well-watered, and productive region, admirably adapted for settlement and cultivation! It is melancholy, but seemingly inevitable, that all great extensions of geographical knowledge, and the opening up of new fields for the industry of the human family, should only be obtainable by the sacrifice of some of the best and the bravest of its members. We trust, however, that the loss of Burke and his companions will not be in vain, but that ere many years pass away the regions in which they perished, which contain their lonely graves, and which we hope will be called by their names, will furnish homes for happy, prosperous, and contented thousands, and that the wilderness that refused to yield them food enough to sustain a few days of life will be the seat of illimitable agricultural and pastoral industry and wealth.



THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD BODY OF BURKE.



THE CALAMITY AT THE HARTLEY COLLIERY.—DELIVERING THE BODIES TO THE RELATIVES OF THE DECEASED.—SEE PAGE 66.



THE WINTER POST CROSSING MOUNT ST. GOTHARD.—(FROM A SKETCH BY A. BECK.)

THE WINTER-POST CROSSING MOUNT ST. GOTHARD.

Of the many engineering triumphs achieved in the present age the great roads across the Central Alps are certainly not the least wonderful. By these stupendous works a comparatively easy communication is now effected between places which were formerly accessible only by help of the surefooted but lingering mule. The road across the Simplon, planned and commenced by Napoleon I. in the year 1801, originated the idea of these colossal enterprises; and the cantons of the Grisons and Uri determined on carrying out the vast scheme by cutting a passage across Mount St. Gothard. In the year 1833 this road was made passable.

It is impossible to conceive anything more grandly picturesque than the towerlike masses of stone heaped one upon another which mark the winding course of the St. Gothard road in its passage through the "Val Tremolo." When ascending from Airole the traveller may imagine himself to be approaching the bastions of a gigantic fortress towering to the very clouds. It is only after he has wound his course through the turnings formed by at least fifty of these Cyclopean piles that he catches the first glimpse of the little hospital rising in the midst of the solitary mountain desert. We shall not stop here to notice the many bridges boldly spanning chasms and torrents; but they are specimens of engineering skill which will not be readily forgotten by those who have seen them.

In summer the road across Mount St. Gothard is a scene of animation and bustle, more resembling the market-place of a populous city than a mountain pass bordering on the region of eternal snow. In the short space of an hour the costumes of every nation in the world may be seen passing to and fro, and the tumult of tongues and variety of languages resounding on every side can be likened only to the confusion of the Tower of Babel. About the middle of September, however, the road becomes less thronged and more quiet. Only a few solitary foot passengers, and at intervals a herd of cattle, give life to the scene, whilst the regular post-coach, and sometimes a cart laden with fruit, are the only passing vehicles. The air is sharp and cutting, and during each succeeding night the depth of snow increases, until some morning (probably during the first half of October) it is formally notified to all whom it may concern that "the pass is closed to wheeled vehicles." At that time the road is probably covered with snow from six to ten feet deep, and as winter advances it attains to double that depth.

Then the work of the "rutners" begins. These men are a body of labourers paid by the Government, and their duty consists in clearing the road, at least sufficiently to admit of the passage of sledges. The precautions adopted by the "rutners" to protect themselves against the intense severity of the Alpine winter are inconceivable, and only those who have seen them engaged in their work can form an idea of their strength and activity, or of the unfailing accuracy with which they can foresee a coming danger. When the snowfall is so deep as to defy the working of the rake and shovel, the following expedient is adopted:—To an ordinary sledge ten or twelve oxen are yoked, one following another; and the foremost in the line is driven by the chief "rutner," who thus acts as the "leader" or guide of the whole train, and advances first into the wide ocean of snowstorm. The "rutners" follow, armed with their hoes and shovels, and divided into separate groups or parties, each under the direction of one individual. These parties of workmen widen and clear the groove marked by the passage of the sledge, and throw up on each side of it little ridges of snow several feet high. Here and there curved spaces are worked out, to enable vehicles advancing in opposite directions to pass each other without coming into collision. All these operations are no less dangerous than laborious, for at some points of the line of road a slight slip of the foot would hurl the "rutner" into a fathomless abyss. Yet such is the dexterity, the control, and, above all, the accurate knowledge of the localities possessed by these men that comparatively few serious accidents occur.

The road being opened, the travellers, some of whom have perhaps been wasting a considerable time at the hospital, are again enabled to pursue their journey. The large post-sledges, or coaches, which had been driven from Airole or Andermatt are abandoned, and light sledges with two seats, and harnessed to a single horse, are employed in their stead. The pass worked through the snow, in the manner above described, merely affords sufficient width for one sledge, and the vehicles are obliged to proceed in a file, one following another. In this manner a single post train a quarter of a mile long often pursues its course through the frozen mountain recesses. In the journey across Mount St. Gothard every possible precaution is taken to protect travellers against the cold. The sledges are open for the sake of lightness, and to diminish the risk of danger in the event of overturning; but a thick cover or apron, lined with leather, protects the traveller from his feet to his breast. If, in addition to this, he has provided himself with a fur mantle, he is fortified against the cold in a way to excite the envy of a Laplander.

That this journey is not wanting either in difficulties or dangers may be readily conceived, and no person who has once performed it is likely to undertake it a second time for mere recreation. It is painfully dreary and monotonous to move along between walls of snow which, in the depth of winter, rise to the height of 15ft. on each side of the narrow pass worked out by the "rutners;" and, should the wind blow with tolerable force, the air is filled with icicles which, striking against the face and every uncovered part of the skin, occasion considerable pain.

At the setting in of spring the dangers are increased rather than diminished, in consequence of the snow-slips and avalanches, which begin to descend as soon as the weather becomes mild. In the severest part of the winter, when the sledges glide over layers of snow ten or twelve feet deep and as hard as stone, the road on both sides is widened by the sledges, which occasionally diverge from the beaten track for the sake of convenience, passing over drifts of snow which are thereby pressed down and gradually levelled. Thus it not unfrequently happens that the leader of the train of sledges loses sight of the original boundary line of the pass, and dashes across a bed of snow forming a sort of hanging bridge over a yawning chasm. As long as one of these masses of snow continues frozen it is capable of bearing any weight that may be put upon it; but whenever the thaw commences it may readily give way. When such accidents occur, sledges, horses, and men are hurled to destruction, and buried in the depth of some impenetrable abyss.

A DRAGOON "COMING IN" FOR A FORTUNE.—A private named Thomas Nelson, alias Biddy, hitherto attached to one of the troops of the 5th Dragoon Guards, now stationed at Norwich, is stated to have become the possessor of a fortune of £70,000, besides a fine estate near Liverpool of the value of £9000 per annum. It is possible that there may be some exaggeration as to the amounts, but the lucky fellow has purchased his discharge from the service and left Norwich for the purpose of inspecting his property; after doing which he proposes to travel on the Continent. It is added that *nouveau riche* acquired the property through his grandfather, who had adopted the name of Biddy, by which name Nelson was generally known among his comrades.

RAILWAY POINTSMEN.—The directors of the Eastern Counties Railway Company, among various improvements in the management of the line now in course of being effected, have determined on a reduction of the daily duty of the men who have charge of the points, and a notice with that object in view was issued last week. We are glad to find that the directors of English railways are beginning to follow the excellent example set to them in this matter by those of France, and trust that ere long the hours of labour demanded of this body of men, upon whose watchfulness and care so much depends, will be universally reduced.

DEPARTURE OF LORD ELGIN FOR INDIA.—His Excellency the Earl of Elgin, accompanied by the Countess and family, left town on Tuesday for Calcutta, to assume the duties of his new appointment as Governor-General of India, as successor to Earl Canning; but we understand the noble Lord will delay his departure from London until the arrival of the *Banshee* at Marseilles, which vessel is to take the noble Earl and Countess and suite to Alexandria, on their way overland to India.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1862.

A COLLIERY ACCIDENT.

THE terrible catastrophe at the New Hartley Colliery has been for the last few days the main topic of interest throughout the land. In old times such a calamity might occur and scarcely stir the emotions of metropolitans more than a shipwreck in the Bermudas, or a massacre of a tribe in Hindostan. Now the electric telegraph and the closely-observant newspaper correspondents bring the scene before us in a distinct and palpable manner; and the heart and brain of Britain sympathise with the pain and suffering of her humbler members.

The story stands before us in terrible vividness and intensity. We who record it would readily shrink even from learning, much less repeating, its harrowing details, were it not that even these may be necessary to enforce the adoption of means of meeting contingencies akin to that which has caused this dire desolation.

There are not wanting consolations even for the sad affliction of the survivors. The men who have perished appear to have died as men should, bravely and piously, in the performance, to the last gasp, of manly duty. How touching is the memorandum, the sole written testimony of the brave time-keeper, who was predicted to be found faithful to the last! He records "We had a prayer meeting at a quarter to two o'clock, when Gibbs, Henry Sharp, Gibson, and Palmer exhorted to us again, and Sharp also." It must never be forgotten by Englishmen that the last comforts of these unfortunate men were the happy fruits of the seeds sown, amid ridicule, contempt and reviling, by Wesley and Whitfield upwards of a century ago.

It is not for us here to dwell upon the horrors of death in the poisonous mine—upon the agony of widows and orphans—upon the sad price at which at this moment all England enjoys its winter fires. More earnest and practical thoughts should employ the mind than those of mere pathetic description. To save others from the like fate—to mitigate, so far as Christian charity can do, the bereaved homes of Christian bread-winners—is the duty which devolves upon every Englishman, be he capitalist, labourer, or student. The ways of life of these brave, useful men, their hourly peril, their unaffected piety, their simple, cleanly homes, are daily brought before us in the broadsheet which tells us of their fate. They were of the very type and pride of England—strong, earnest men, whose sudden death is the first intimation to us all of our neglect of their requirements. Among all the pressures of our rapidly-shifting age none is more urgent than that of adequate protection for the producers of England's comforts, necessities, wealth—nay, even glory—from the bowels of the teeming earth.

It was to be expected that all kinds of suggestions should at once be forthcoming, and listened to with attention, for the preservation of life in mines. A double shaft to each has been proposed, but this, in consequence of the necessary and continual deviation from the original line of working, might be found less useful than expensive.

The resources of modern engineering comprise a method which appears both economical and applicable. It is simply the use of the hollow tube buried by means of an internal removable screw; the plan, in fact, by which the piers of modern bridges are now sunk and fixed. The screw not only sinks the tube or shaft, but, after the manner of a huge gimlet, brings to the surface all that impedes the progress of the boring-shaft. Were this plan adopted the advantages would be incalculable. It could be readily adapted as a means of communication between the external earth and the narrowest practicable vein or gallery. The substances brought up by it would afford a continuous indication of the character of all the strata from the surface downwards. It would supply ventilation and a ready escape for the hydrogenic "firedamp." By its means the carbonic "chokedamp" might be absorbed by lime cast from the top. In case of closing of the shaft it would form a communication by which air, nutriment, and every necessary for the sustenance of life could be transmitted to the pit without the labour and machinery required by a succession of shafts; and to most, if not all, of their contingencies it would not be liable.

Still the duty of prevention is of the future. For the present, national beneficence is yet more urgent. Each of these two hundred pallid bodies leaves to us, seated by our cherished coal fires, the task performed, by them to their last spark of life, of support to honest matrons, aged parents, and helpless infants. The executors of these manifold toiling testators are the wealthy and the true-hearted of all England. Right well has their office

been initiated, as the subscription lists already show. But it is not by twenty, fifty, or a hundred pounds per head to sorrowing relatives and dependents that the results of a national recklessness can be expiated. Nothing less than the placing of all these poor folks, if unable to work, above want for life; if young and healthy, in the way of honest, honourable livelihood; should be the limit, not of beneficence, but of reparation. Let every club, every society, every tavern, and every private household, follow the noble example of her Majesty in ready donation to the alleviation of the grief and deprivation of these poor sufferers. In such a case as this let our motto be, emphatically, "*Bis dat qui cito dat*," "He gives double who gives quickly."

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES has sent £100 as a contribution to the fund for relieving the sufferers by the Hartley Colliery accident.

THE AMOUNT RECEIVED at the Mansion House, London, for the Prince Consort Memorial Fund now exceeds £21,000.

CANON STANLEY and a son of Lord Clanwilliam will accompany the Prince of Wales on his travels. The Berlin journals state that the Prince of Wales will visit the Court of Berlin on his way to Trieste, where he is to embark for the East.

THE MARRIAGE OF PRINCESS ALICE with Prince Louis of Hesse is said to be postponed till the close of June or beginning of July. Prince Louis will remain at Osborne till the arrival of Prince Alfred, and then go to the Continent for a short time.

THE DUC DE CHARTRES and the Comte de Paris have returned from their furlough and resumed their staff duties in the Federal army.

THE MARRIAGE OF MR. MYDDLETON BIDDLEPH, of the 1st Life Guards, to Miss Howard, will take place on the 4th inst.

THE MARRIAGE OF Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. Somerset G. Calthorpe, son of Lord Calthorpe, with Mrs. Frederick Crewe, was solemnised at St. George's, Hanover-square, on Tuesday.

LORD LYONS is gazetted to be Knight Grand Cross of the Bath.

THE PROVOST OF ETON, the Rev. E. C. Hawtrey, D.D., expired on Monday igh at twelve o'clock. He had lain for a month in a hopeless state, and his death had been hourly expected for the last week.

CAPTAIN GEORGE HENRY SEYMOUR, C.B., a Naval Aide-de-Camp to the Queen and a son of Admiral Sir George Seymour, G.C.B., has been appointed to the command of the Royal yacht.

REAR-ADMIRAL JAMES JOHN STOFFORD, who attained flag rank only last June, has been appointed to hoist his flag on board the *Euryalus*, 31, screw steam-frigate, at Portsmouth, for service on the coast of China.

It has been officially announced that the Queen of Spain is in the fifth month of her pregnancy.

PRINCE OSCAR OF SWEDEN, for whom various Continental journals have been kindly arranging an Italian marriage, is already married. His wife, Princess Sophia Wilhelmina of Nassau, has been staying at Nice during the Prince's visit to Turin.

TWO SONS OF PRINCE LUITPOLD OF BAVARIA will leave next week for Athens. The eldest of the two Princes is designated as the heir presumptive to the throne of Greece.

THE WAR OFFICE has sanctioned an advance of six months' extraordinary field allowance to the troops lately ordered to Canada.

THE SPOT CHOSEN FOR LADY CANNING'S GRAVE in the private garden at Barrackpore was selected with a view to its being included in a cemetery which the Bishop was shortly expected to consecrate. A monument, it is said, will be erected before Lord Canning's departure on the 1st of March next.

THE WIDOW OF THE LATE BARON BUNSEN, who was so deservedly esteemed while filling the office of Prussian Minister in this country, has returned to England with her family, and is passing the winter at St. Leonards-on-Sea.

THE EMPEROR LOUIS NAPOLEON, in conversation with the Duke of Buccleuch on the subject of the Trent affair, is reported to have said, "Ah! I wish it had happened to me. We should have known how to treat them. You are too respectable."

THE TURCARORA left her moorings at eight o'clock on Wednesday morning, and has sailed down the river, out of sight; but whether gone to sea, or only out for a cruise, is not known.

A MOVEMENT IS ON FOOT IN SHEFFIELD for the establishment in that town of a school of mechanical science and practical metallurgy.

MR. CHARLES DICKENS is said to be engaged on a new novel, the first chapters of which will speedily be published. It will appear, not in the pages of *All the Year Round*, but in old familiar monthly serial shape, with the green cover, with illustrations by Phiz.

PROPERTY to a considerable amount has been dug up at Delhi under one of the apartments of the ex-King.

THE GUARDIAN OF THE BRITISH CEMETERY AT SCUTARI has been badly beaten by some Turkish soldiers. Sir Henry Bulwer has demanded the punishment of the offenders.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE CIVIL TRIBUNAL AT ROME, M. CIUFFA, has been assassinated, and a man named Farroni has been arrested on the charge.

ONE OF THE MARINE INSURANCE COMPANIES is said to have netted about £60,000 by taking war risks during the late short period of excitement arising out of the case of the Trent.

THE SENIOR WRANGLER at Cambridge, Mr. Barker, is a native of Aberdeen, and was educated there.

MR. MASTERMAN, the banker, who formerly represented the city of London, died on Thursday morning week, at the age of eighty-one.

A LIST OF ABOUT THREE HUNDRED PLACES has been published at which post-office savings banks will be opened in Ireland on Monday, the 3rd inst.

THE GRAND DUKE LEOPOLD OF TUSCANY has just sent to Florence the sum of 40,000*l.* to be employed in finishing the front of the Church of the Holy Cross. Will it be accepted?

JOHN JONES and HELEN CLIFFORD were on Monday convicted at Edinburgh of robbing James Bowstead of notes, bills, and cash to the amount of £2520, at a cattle market at Falkirk in October last.

THE COMMITTEE OF THE DUBLIN GOLDSMITH MEMORIAL FUND are still £200 short of the sum required to erect the proposed statue.

THE ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY AT WOOLWICH will be reopened on the 11th inst., under new regulations and new conductors.

MRS. GORE has left instructions to her executors to prevent the publication of any memoir of her life.

HEWAN has put a card in the American papers offering himself as the first volunteer against England, and withdrawing his pugilistic challenges.

MR. ALEXANDER SMITH, the author of "A Life-Drama," "Edwin of Deira," &c., is a candidate for the new chair of English Literature in the University of Glasgow.

MR. W. T. SMITHSON, a banker at Washington, has been arrested on a charge of treason.

THE WORTHFUL COMPANY OF GOLDSMITHS have kindly presented £50 to the National Hospital for the Paralyzed and Epileptic, Queen-square, Bloomsbury, W.C.

A SECOND BATCH OF SHIPWRIGHTS has sailed from Cork for the United States, where, from the number of vessels being built for the Navy, they hope to obtain very remunerative employment.

ON JAN. 20 there was a soiree at the Tuilleries. Some minutes before midnight the Empress caused the dancing to cease, and the fête was terminated at once, and before the hour when the funeral anniversary of the death of Louis XVI. commenced.

COUNT BERTHIER, grandson of the Prince de Wagram, lately narrowly escaped assassination from the hand of a lady living in the Lorette quarter of the town. The case will shortly come before the Assize Court.

A GROOM was killed last week at the Chorley railway-station by a goods engine as he was attempting to cross the line. A verdict of "manslaughter" has been returned against the driver.

MR. SAWARD is said to have telegraphed orders to permit British troops to pass through Maine, en route to Canada.

MR. FOLEY is executing statues of Sir Henry Marsh, the physician, for Dublin; and of Father Mathew, to be in bronze, for Cork.

It has been decided that the railway from Marseilles to Cetté shall be laid down along the coast of the Mediterranean.

A YOUNG MAN NAMED JOHN GEORGE GILBERT, lately in the employment of a confectioner at Steyne, has lost his life through the inhalation and taste of borzole, a substance which has recently come into use for the flavouring of confectionery.

ADVISED FROM TURIN STATE THAT M. FARINI, formerly Dictator of Emilia, being afflicted with a grave malady, has been forced to withdraw for a long time, if not for ever, from public affairs.

MR. BRIGHT has accepted the invitation of the council of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce to a dinner on the 4th inst. Deputations from other chambers and members of Parliament have also been invited.

MAJOR W. MURRAY, who was seriously injured in the fracas with Mr. Roberts, in Northumberland-street, Strand, some time ago, and which resulted in the death of the latter, has completely recovered from his wounds.

THERE WAS A WEDDING lately in the parish of Sandnes, in Shetland, at which there were thirteen gallons of whisky, besides cordials. The company consisted of fifty persons, who did not separate till the third day. What do our testamental friends think of that?

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF LONDON, in order to aid the committee of governors of the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's-inn-road, in meeting the demand of the thousands of sick poor weekly applying for relief, have voted the sum of 200 guineas to the funds of the charity.

THE SENTENCE ON RICHARD REEVE, condemned to death for the murder of his sister in Drury-court, Strand, has been commuted to penal servitude for life.

MR. W. J. LINTON, in a letter to the newspapers, proposes the establishment of an order of merit to reward such displays of heroism as were made by the men engaged in attempting to rescue the victims of the Hartley Colliery accident.

A LETTER FROM HAMBURG states that considerable quantities of vegetables and fruit are regularly imported there from the United States. By the two last steamers 3600 tons of fine fresh apples had arrived from New York for consumption in Germany.

MAZE AND KING fought for the championship of the P.R. and £200 a side at Goldstone, Surrey, on Tuesday, when, after fighting for an hour and eight minutes, KING was unable to come to time and MAZE was declared the victor.

"A PERSON," says the *Sport*, "who looks at the world in somewhat gloomy colours, having recently complained in M. Auber's presence how hard it was that people must grow old, 'Hard as it is,' replied the veteran composer, 'it seems to be the only means yet discovered of enjoying long life.'"

ACCORDING TO A TELEGRAM FROM ROME, the Pope has declared that he will not send a Nuncio to St. Petersburg till the Emperor shall have released Canon Biadaczski, liberated the priests confined in the citadel at Warsaw, and recalled those transported to Siberia.

A CLERGYMAN OF BOSTON offered to preach to the prisoners in Fort Warren. They accepted his proposal with gladness, but prayed permission to select the text, and suggested Acts, chapter xxv., verse 27—"For it is unjust to me unreasonable to send a prisoner and not withal to signify the crimes laid against him."

THE YANKEES HAVE GOT A NEW DWARF, George Washington Nutt, of Manchester, N.H., eighteen years of age. In stature he is inconceivably small. All other dwarfs tower as giants by his side. General Tom Thumb, with whom Mr. Barnum created such a furore in Europe some years ago, stands thirteen inches higher than Commodore Nutt, "boots and all."

LARGE EXPORTS OF ARMS continue to take place from the German and Belgian ports for America. The Melita has just sailed from Antwerp for New York with 15,000 stand of arms—old flint locks converted into percussion muskets at Liège, at a cost of £3000. Their value is estimated at £25,000.

MR. HENRY EDWARDS died at Southend, Croydon, last week, aged 101, leaving a widow to whom he had been united for sixty-two years. A few days before his death, Mr. Edwards, who retained his faculties to the last, read without the aid of spectacles.

ERICH DAMING, a German glazier, while engaged in putting in a pane of glass in a window in Berners-street the other day, fell from a height of two storeys, and was impaled on the railing in front of the house. He shortly afterwards died, having endured great agony.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

FOREMOST amongst the members of Parliament who have lately addressed their constituents stands Mr. Massey, the member for Salford. He tells us that the war between the Federalists and Confederates is "a war which no man can understand, a war which had no beginning and will have no end, which had no cause and will have no effect." This war, then, according to "the learned Chairman of Ways and Means," is a unique phenomenon, an event without beginning or end—causeless, fruitless, and unintelligible. Strange that an able man like Mr. Massey should utter such nonsense. Mr. Massey further tells us that he is connected in an humble capacity with the Government—which is news to me. From August, 1856, to March, 1858, he was Under Secretary to the Home Department; but now he is Chairman of Committees of the whole House, or Chairman of Ways and Means, and this office is certainly not a Government post. The House of Commons elects to it, and the House pays the salary. In short, Mr. Massey is an officer of the House of Commons, and not of the Government. Again, Mr. Massey says "that it is well known that the French Government had made repeated endeavours to induce our Government to join them to put an end to the blockade—which is no blockade; but that her Majesty's Ministers had hitherto resisted the importunities of the French Government." But Mr. Massey is, I believe, as wrong in his facts as he is in his philosophy. Rumours that the French Emperor wished to force the blockade, and that Lord Palmerston sympathised with his old friend, have been flying about of late; but I am persuaded that they are only rumours—Pall-mall and Capel-court canards; nothing more—and the Emperor's speech confirms this opinion. Let it be remembered that forcing the blockade means war with the Federalists, a fact which seems to be forgotten.

Thackeray says, "To see with one's eyes men and countries is better than reading all the books of travel in the world." Mr. Baxter, the accomplished member for Montrose, has both read and travelled. He has travelled through Europe, and given to the world his "Impressions." He has also crossed the Atlantic, spent many months in the United States, and published his thoughts upon "America and Americans." His first work, "Impressions of Central and Southern Europe," I have not seen. His lectures upon "America and the Americans" I have read more than once with pleasure. It is a work of small pretensions, but it contains a good deal of valuable information, and is inspired by a calm and thoughtful spirit throughout. Mr. Baxter is not a fanatical Abolitionist; indeed, he got into disfavour amongst the straightest of the sect after the publication of his book, and was denounced as a favourer of slavery; but, though not a fanatical Abolitionist, Mr. Baxter is quite alive to the evils of slavery, and declares in a speech recently delivered by him, in which there is all that freshness and life which only a speaker who has seen the things he describes can infuse into his description, "There are sights and sounds there (in the Slave States) to be seen and heard which I cannot think of, though it is several years since I was in the States, without a shudder." It is Mr. Baxter's opinion that "the congress of slaveowners in the South hate in their hearts that England whose name is a pleasant sound to the black man all over the world," and that it would be fatal policy for us to attempt to break the blockade, or to hastily recognise the independence of the Confederates. This is Mr. Baxter's view; and that it is the view of a majority of the British Parliament I cannot for a moment doubt. The *Observer* advocates the forcing of the blockade even at the expense of "another Navarino." But the Federalist States are not Turkey; and, moreover, the affair of Navarino in which we destroyed the fleet of one of our oldest allies, and thus laid her open to an enemy from whom we were obliged to step in and protect her, is not a precedent to be quoted. At the time, it was declared by the Duke of Wellington to be an "unfavourable event."

Speaking of Navarino naturally reminds me of Lord Clarence Paget, the able and popular Secretary of the Admiralty, for his Lordship was in that light as Midshipman on board the *Asia*; and he was also in the Baltic as Commander of the *Princess Royal*, 51 guns, in 1854; and it is on record that there was no smarter ship in the fleet than the *Princess Royal*. The ship's cleanliness and order were the admiration of all who saw it; while the discipline of her crew, though he never flogged a man, was perfect. And all this everybody who knows Lord Clarence can perfectly understand. It is evident that all disorder and bad management are

hateful to the excellent Secretary; whilst his kindness of disposition, combined with his well-known firmness and promptitude, it is quite conceivable would make him so popular with his crew that punishment would be rarely required, and flagellation never. One is sorry to learn that Lord Clarence's health is not good, though we can hardly be surprised, for he works very hard. There are still men who think that our officials have but little to do, and there may be some departments still in which idleness is the rule and hard work the exception; but it is certainly not so in the Admiralty, for there every man, from the First Lord down to the lowest clerk, works incessantly, and often long after the usual business hour is past. In fact, the Admiralty department is underrmanned, and, consequently, the officials have in many cases double duty to perform.

Lord Dufferin will move the Address in the House of Lords. It was Lord Dufferin who went to Spitzbergen in his yacht the *Foam*, and wrote an account of his voyage in "Letters from High Latitudes." Lord Dufferin's mother was a Sheridan, and from her he probably inherits the wit and humour which mark every page of his "Letters." The Earl of Shelburne is to be second to Lord Dufferin. The noble Earl is the eldest son of the venerable Marquis of Lansdowne. He sits in the House as Baron Wycombe; Lord Dufferin as Baron Clanboye.

It is now quite evident that the advocates of intervention between the belligerents in the West will be a very small minority in the House. Almost every member who has spoken of late has advocated the policy of non-intervention. Mr. Eliot, jun., a man of high standing and a steady supporter of the Government, has declared in the strongest terms against armed intervention. Indeed, a contrary policy would lead to complications frightful to think of.

At the time when the lament of the "Seven Belgravian Mothers" called forth such a storm of controversy, it may be recollected that a correspondent of the *Times*, signing himself "Beaujolais," boldly enunciated the noble principle that a mistress was pleasanter in every way than a wife, and that the man who had the courage so to order his life really deserved well of his compeers. One could scarcely imagine that any one, even under the shadow of a pseudonym, would have avowed such a doctrine. But what will be thought when we find precisely similar principles professed in an English court of law by one of the Queen's Counsel, who is, I am given to understand, regarded as a shining light among the High Church party? Mr. Coleridge, Q.C., the defender of the immaculate Mrs. Windham, surely must have measured the mental capacity of his hearers by the Warren standard when he ventured to assert that his client was just the style of person to attract a man educated as Mr. Windham had been; and, further, when he dared to say that she "held an excellent position in her own circle." Does Mr. Coleridge think that jurymen have only ears when in their box, and that they are deprived of listening to the thousand rumours which for months have been prevalent in all "circles"? I commend Mr. Coleridge and his speech to the attention of all gentlemen between whose mothers, wives, and sisters and Mrs. Windham he institutes such a flattering comparison. He is indeed a disciple of whom Belgravian Puseyism may be proud.

"One touch of nature"—you may have heard the quotation before. The Queen's telegrams and letter to the families of the miners have elicited more general and more sincere expressions of affection than I have ever heard before bestowed on her, all-popular as she is. By-the-way, would it not be expedient to hold over the receipt of subscriptions for the Prince Consort Memorial (for which £20,000 has already been collected) until some further provision has been made for the widows and children of the lost men, for whom £17,000 is required?

An Irishman who has passed many years in America is not likely to be remarkable for modesty or reticence; but it is seldom one comes across such a fine mixture of blarney and "high-debatin'" as the advertisement of the Adelphi Theatre performance which now decks the *Times*. Mr. Webster's name stands at the head of this document but it is surely impossible to mistake the fine Roman hand which penned the following:—"On or about the 15th of February will be produced a new drama, by the author of 'The Colleen Bawn' and 'The Octoroon,' in which Mr. and Mrs. Boucicault will perform. This drama will be performed until Monday, April 21, on which night will be produced a new romantic drama and a new fairy domestic tale by Mr. Boucicault. The above group of plays will form the entertainments of the Adelphi Theatre during the summer season." Merely glancing at the delightful manner in which "the author of, &c," and "Mr. Boucicault" are named as distinct persons, the paragraph is worth notice from the cool manner in which what is to be done in *futuro* is laid down with so much happy candour. *Sic volo sic jubeo*, say "the author of, &c," and "Mr. Boucicault," never thinking that the public (which, as he himself avowed, had already written the last act of "The Octoroon," while he only edited it), may perhaps damn either the new drama, the new romantic drama, or the new fairy domestic tale on the first night of their production. Mr. Charles Kean, who is, like Sir Peter Teazle, the "best-abused man in London" in what Mr. Coleridge, Q.C., would call "certain circles," used, in making announcements of future plays, to use the phrase "under approval," a term which I commend to Mr. Boucicault.

Alderman Humphrey's friend, the prophetic "Zadkiel," is very doleful in his predictions about England this year. He says:—"When Mars forms an opposition with Uranus (Jan. 25), and when Uranus is stationary in the ruling sign of America, there will be deeds of blood performing such as Mars delighteth to enact both by sea and land. But in addition to this, which mainly pertains to America, there are to be strange accidents, turmoil, and violent deeds in London and the west of England, and very rash and eccentric will the people be. Some great and bloody seafight will fall out. The revenue will fail, the funds rule low, and death will afflict the ruling powers. There is little but gloom for Old England. Let her statesmen act with caution and prudence, and wait patiently till her star once again be in the ascendant, for there is yet a grievous blow to follow." The "rashness and eccentricity" spoken of have already been exhibited in the large numbers of "Zadkiel's" almanack which have been purchased.

Messrs. Groombridge announce a new periodical, called the *Intellectual Observer*. A hasty perusal of the title might lead one to confound the new comer with an old-established Sunday journal. If, however, the promise held out in the adjective be only kept, there will not be the slightest danger of making a mistake.

THE BURNING OF A CONVICT-SHIP AT TOULON.

THERE has recently occurred at Toulon one of those terrible accidents the description of which reads like a page from a highly-wrought fiction, and, although no tragical consequences ensued, the circumstances of the danger were so fearful that the probable results retain their hold upon the imagination even while we are rejoicing that the courage and promptitude of those who rendered assistance were sufficient to rescue the lives of those who were themselves so helpless. On board the *Santi Petri*, which was used as a large floating prison for the convicts, 800 poor wretches lay chained to their beds on the night of the 6th of January. The vessel was moored in the angle of the old dock, her bowsprit close to the stern of the *Muiron* (the Admiral's ship), her deck covered by a sort of light roofing composed of timber and tarpaulin, which had long dried and frizzled under the hot sun in the harbour; a searching north-west wind was blowing, and setting freshly towards the dockyard.

At two o'clock the sleeping crews of the French, Russian, and Italian ships in the harbour were awakened by signal-guns, and soon the bells rung out an alarm which told of some great danger. The prison-ship was on fire; its roof, already a sheet of flame, fell crashing to the deck, where lay a bed of caulking heap some three feet thick, ready to be blown in burning flakes amongst the shipping and to the roofs of the dockyard buildings.

The entire harbour was threatened with destruction, and but for the admirable arrangements of the naval authorities nothing could have prevented fearful loss both of life and property. As it was, however, two hours sufficed to make the firemen masters of the situation, and, although the ship was smoking, at nine o'clock in the morning the danger was over, and not a single death reported. It was for some time uncertain whether the catastrophe was caused by an accident or by the act of an incendiary; but the watchmen declare that sparks were carried from the chimneys of the dockyard steam-engines to the inflammable roof of the *Santi Petri*, which caught immediately.

This is the second time that accident has resulted from these sail-cloth coverings; for some years ago a three-decker, named the *Trocadero*, was burnt to the water's edge in a similar manner.

It was remarked during the late fire that the Russian and Italian sailors were as active as the French in rendering assistance.

LIFE AT THE HILL STATIONS OF INDIA.

THE horrors of an exile in a foreign land, away from kith and kin, are scarcely endurable to the homesick Englishman of ripe age; but when the exile is doomed to wear away his best years of existence in a tropical country, in a climate uncongenial to his feelings, and to vegetate beneath a scorching sun, exposed to the fiery blasts of heaven, and have his occupations cast among a race of heathens scarcely emancipated from the lowest depths of civilisation, the trial is indeed a sore one; and how often has severe sickness, to which the unacclimatised Briton is keenly susceptible, fallen upon him as a "welcome guest," as being a good reason for his escaping from the hateful land and returning to Old England to be resuscitated and reinvigorated in health, and be once more a happy occupant of that long-vacated seat which erst he filled in that domestic circle around the blazing Christmas fire, and where now in joyful mood he forgets all disasters, and, when called upon for his tale, can recount some of the most humorous scenes in which he has taken part, or some adventure from which he has reaped the utmost enjoyment? Such is the case with those wanderers to India who return at an advanced age in life. And well is it that the vast majority of those whose steps are guided to that burning clime, and who have a long life to pass there in the service of their country, sail at that joyful period of life when all is sunshiny and rosy. The cheerful cadet lands on the palm-bearing shores, and all objects that his gaze falls upon are bright as diamonds in his eye. His young blood bears him gallantly through the oppressive heat until he becomes almost acclimatised; he saunters about in the sun, heedless of its rays, and wondering how it is that the old "foggy" can find it anything but really pleasant, and jogs along under the happy conviction that to apply such a term as "hot place" to India is unquestionably a misnomer. And well is it so; a few less "able-bodied griffs" are brought to taste the sweets of fever, or return to the maternal bosom in England to be set to rights; but the majority push along right merrily; and it is only as grey hairs begin to edge in, and the joints begin to feel more stiff, and the bones less fertile in marrow, that the Englishman cares for being exiled. The great secret is the fellowship and companionship that exist, and which bind society together; and though there is a mighty charm in the prospect of coming "home" to find friends, and all that sort of thing, yet there are cords of affection and other binding ties that have to be snapped which diminish the pleasure of even seeing once again Old England.

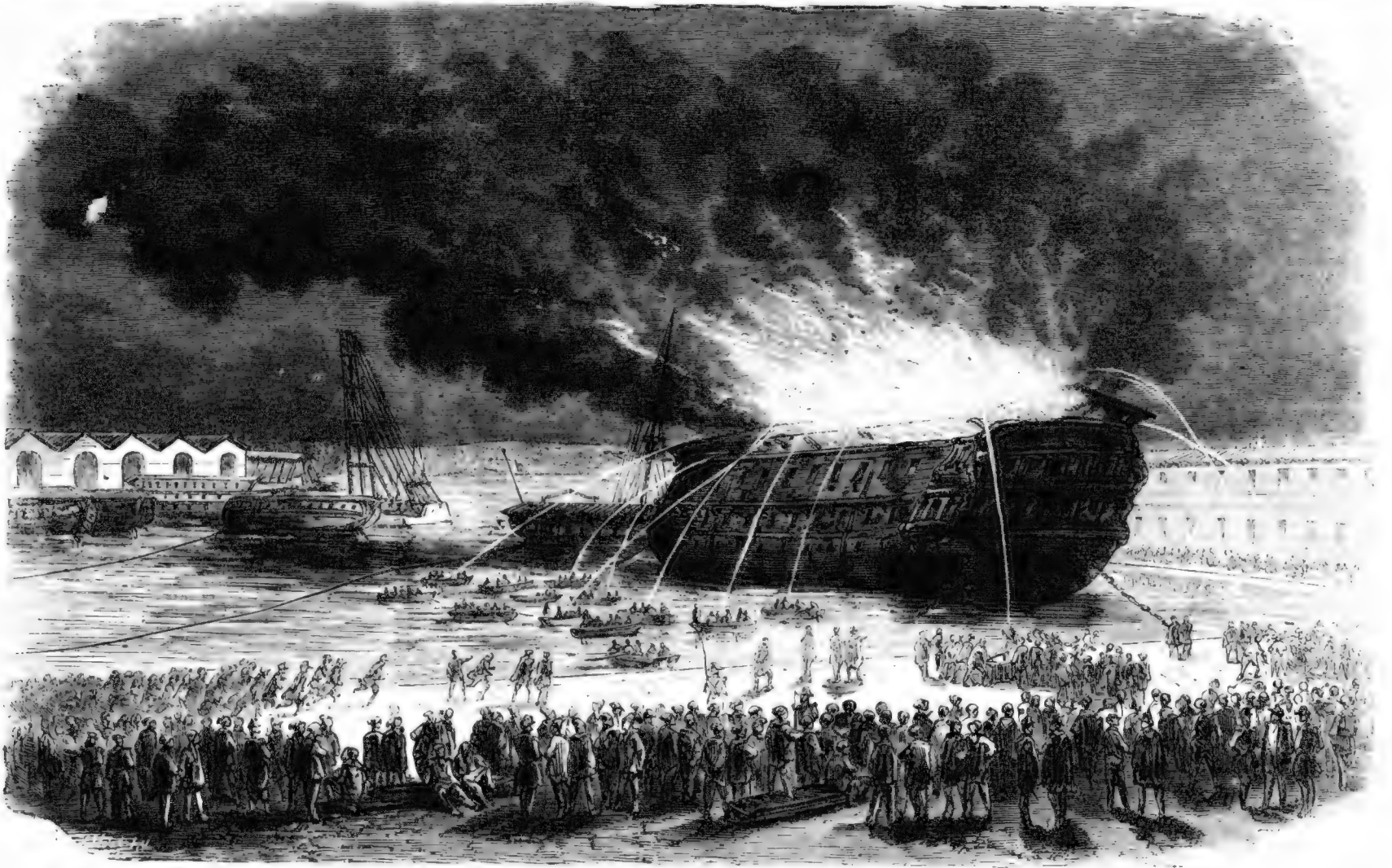
We have spoken of the trying climate as if it were universal throughout Hindostan, forgetful that in that vast oasis there are many green spots, cool and refreshing to the exile, as green trees by the watercourses gladdening the traveller on his way. And happy, indeed, that it is so, for many a parched wayfarer on his Indian course revives his fading strength, recruits his shattered health, and, in the happy forgetfulness of official duties, in a light and idle life passed in the invigorating and bracing climate of the Himalayas, amidst mountain scenery, with the magnificent cedar, the graceful pine, and the stalwart oak, diversified with the gorgeous hues of the scarlet rhododendron, which, unlike the liliputian English shrub, shoot up wildly, in all the majesty of forest trees. In such quiet nooks, many thousand feet above the level of the sea, with the snow-capped peaks fringing the northern horizon, away from the formal exactitudes of military cantonments, free from the "harshness" of the regiment, detestable "daily orders," midnight rounds, and such like annoyances, the officer on leave resigns himself to unmitigated amusement; while the civilian not one whit the less abandons his stifling court of law and inhales with still greater zest the pure air of heaven.

The most aristocratic hill-station, or sanitarium, is unquestionably Simla, which contains a bazaar, church, assembly-room, theatre, club, racquet-court, and some 400 houses, each detached and perched on every accessible ledge and peak that could be made useful from the princely mansion—such as those inhabited by the Governor-General, the Commander-in-Chief, and other important personages—to the prim little cottages of four rooms, perched like nests in snug nooks, or on tiny overhanging pinnacles, rather incomprehensible to a stranger as dwellings for mortal man. Excellent roads at a very uniform level wind round the several mountains, forming multifarious rides and drives—Simla running in one line alone some three miles, with mountain spurs, crested and sprinkled with neat houses, darting off in every direction; other sanatoria, as Mussooree, Darjeeling, Nynce Tal, Dalhousie, Almorah, and the like, being similar places of refuge for the "cool air-loving" population to gratify their longing for repose.

Our illustration represents the mode of "eating the air," as it is expressed in the vernacular. Where the roads are safe, as at Simla, properly railed in, and of a moderate inclination, horses are preferred; but at the smaller stations horses are scarcely considered safe, as the highest-blooded Arab is at best but a stumbling walker; and as the young blood of Great Britain, male and female, ride their steeds at full speed, preference is given to the more sure-footed mountain ponies, whose high manes and tails are of considerable advantage to the rider, in the ascent or descent of steep acclivities, as well as affording a "hawser" to the panting horsekeeper, who, fresh from the plains, is grievously "pumped" as he tracks his master's steps. Occasionally to be taken in tow is therefore a matter of considerable advantage.

The luxury of walking, a performance almost forgotten from want of practice, in the burning plains, where such physical exertion would annihilate every vestige of energy left in one's frame, is again resorted to; and fair pedestrians, whose shoes have never been soiled with anything like mud, are to be seen "pounding along" the roads right joyfully, quite a gladdening sight to the exile in Ind.

But when the fair sex neither walk nor ride the style of conveyance is a sort of easy chair, carried as is shown in the Engraving. Every lady has one of these vehicles, which is called a "jampan." In wet weather the occupant is protected by a movable top, supported by light rods, which carry a painted tarpaulin roof, while the sides are inclosed with curtains of rough black or drab blanketing impervious to wet, and are lined or edged with some crimson stuff to give it a finish. These either button over closely, enfolding the fair occupant from the winter's blast and the pelting rain, or else, slid back, are twisted round the rods, forming an "open vehicle." The bearers form part of every hill establishment. Six are generally the allowance for each "jampan," and, in addition to the duty of carrying their lady at all hours of the day or night, they are employed in cutting firewood and stacking it, cutting grass for the horses, running messages, and making themselves generally useful. As usual, according to Eastern fashion, there must be a head man to control them; thus an extra functionary, on a trifling higher rate of pay, directs and controls, but never puts his shoulder to the wheel, or rather to the pole. Active, enduring, muscular men are these jampanneers, who think nothing of descending into the deep valleys



BURNING OF THE SANTI PETRI CONVICT-SHIP AT TOULON

or miles every morning to cut wood and then bring it home by perhaps twelve o'clock, when, after their dinner, they will carry the jampan all the afternoon and be out again at night while their mistress is enjoying herself at a ball. As far as walking goes, they never

appear to tire, but can steadily keep it up all day without the slightest apparent fatigue, and all the while bearing a ponderous burden that would even make a London railway-porter wince.

The English reader can fully realise the attractions of such a life,

and he will be glad to hear that military cantonments have been established in this range of hills for English troops, and that now six or eight regiments will always be located in an invigorating and healthy climate.



LIFE IN THE HILL STATIONS OF INDIA. — FROM A SKETCH BY THE LATE CAPT. G. F. ATKINSON.

PARIS FASHIONS FOR FEBRUARY.



FASHIONS FOR FEBRUARY.

THE present being the season of balls and soirées in Paris, the principal fashionably novelties that have appeared are those adapted to evening costume.

For ball dresses light transparent textures are preferred to all others. Robes of tulle-illusion, having the skirts covered with bouillonnées, are exquisitely light and graceful in effect. These dresses may be trimmed either with ribbon or with flowers. The ribbon is usually disposed in ruffles, or in rosettes combined with tulle. Sometimes it is arranged in the manner of chatainnes, and occasionally a single bow of very broad ribbon, gathering up the skirt on one side, forms the only ornament. Very narrow flounces, cut out at the edges, are another favourite trimming for ball dresses of tulle, crape, &c. These flounces frequently cover the whole skirt from the lower edge to the waist. A ball dress of white tulle made in this style may be completed by a wreath of flowers: the end should be fastened on one shoulder and the wreath passed over the corsage to the opposite side of the waist, and thence to be allowed to flow loosely over the skirt of the dress.

Many ladies in Paris have lately appeared at balls and evening parties in dresses of white or coloured satin. Of the richness and elegance of the material there can be no question; but it unfortunately happens that the folds of satin do not hang gracefully over a crinoline. In satin the folds should be broken and irregular. Nothing, however, is more effective than satin when employed as a trimming for other materials, and many Parisian milliners now use satin in trimming silk dresses, disposing it either in pelissés or in flat rows at the edge of the skirt. Even in the trimming of ball dresses, made of transparent textures, satin is introduced with good effect.

Marabout feathers, white or coloured, are very fashionable for evening head-dresses. They are usually intermingled with flowers, or with gold or silver foliage.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

Our Engraving comprises a variety of fashionable costumes, including those suitable for evening, dinner, morning, and out-door costume.

The figure in the centre represents an evening dress of plain white satin, with a Zouave jacket of black Maltese lace. The corsage is extremely simple, consisting merely of bows and ends of black ribbon richly embroidered with gold, and fixed at the back part of the head.

The figure in profile on the right shows a dress of light blue taffeta, with trimming of passementerie of a deeper hue. *Echarpe à l'Impératrice* of broad ribbon fastened on the left side of the waist. A wreath of foliage forms the head-dress.

The full evening dress worn by the figure standing between the two just described consists of white tulle over white glacé. The corsage is in folds, and pointed at the waist. Bouquets of flowers in front of the corsage and on the sleeves. Head-dress—a bouquet placed just above the forehead.

Grouped round the table, on the extreme right, are three ladies, one standing and two sitting. The standing figure wears a dress of pink glacé, with a tablier formed of narrow frills of the same. The berthe has three narrow frills. Head-dress, a wreath of rosebuds and jacinth, with droops at the back of the head.

The next figure (sitting) has a dress of silver-grey moire antique, trimmed with passementerie and buttons. Head-dress, bows of blue velvet and black lace lappets.

The other sitting figure at the end of the table shows a dress of white glacé, and a corsage consisting of a wreath of white azalia.

On the left of the central figure are two in out-door costume. Both are intended to represent the same dress, the one showing the back and the other the front. The dress is of black moire, and the mantle of black velvet. The bonnet is of grey crin, trimmed with white flowers, and in front a small plume of white feathers tipped with black.

The figures on the extreme left represent plain in-door dresses of silk. In one the tight sleeves show a novelty partially introduced in Paris, but as yet it may be called a *fantaisie* rather than a *fashion*.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE genuinely successful opera of "The Puritan's Daughter," which work will always be remembered as having stamped the literary reputation of a librettist, while it added to the fame of a composer, is soon to be withdrawn to make way for Mr. Benedict's "Lily of Killarney." "The Lily of Killarney" in question is our old young friend Miss Eily O'Connor, whose soubriquet of "Colleen Bawn" seems to be too entirely worn out for her to wear it in a fresh and musical phase of theatrical existence.

The Monday Popular Concert at St. James's Hall this week snatched a principal glory from the Philharmonic Society, which had established a sort of monopoly in Hummel's septet in D minor, for pianoforte, flute, oboe, horn, viola, violoncello, and bass. The executants on this occasion were MM. Charles Hallé, Pratten, Barret, C. Harper, Webb, Paque, and Severn. Each and all played to perfection, and the septet was never heard to greater advantage than on this its first time of performance at the Monday Popular Concerts. Mr. Hallé did full justice to the brilliantly-arduous pianoforte part. The melodious passages assigned to the oboe could not have been in better hands than Mr. Barret's; and Mr. C. Harper, who is generally acknowledged to excel even his renowned father as a player of the horn as well as trumpet, executed the scherzo repetitions in so masterly a manner as greatly to conduce to the general encore which awaited the termination of the movement. Beethoven's famous love-piece, the "Moonlight" sonata, as that in C sharp minor is most frequently called, was next in importance as a feature of the concert. It was magnificently interpreted by Mr. Charles Hallé, who conveyed all the expression of singing into the passionate and plaintive adagio. Mendelssohn's delicate quartet in E flat was played so effectively by Messrs. Rees, Webb, Watson, and Paque, that the canzonetta was redemanded and the whole applauded with the utmost heartiness. One of Haydn's numerous family of quartets concluded the programme, in which the only vocal pieces were those allotted to Mr. Tennant, whose cultivated voice was heard to great advantage in Beethoven's "Wachtelchlag," Mr. Benedict accompanying.

A NEW APPROACH TO THE EXHIBITION BUILDING.—The question of improving the approach to the Great Exhibition has been vexing the authorities for some months past. There has been more trouble about these approaches than there was about the erection of the building itself. It is now, however, determined that a road shall be made across Kensington Gardens, constructed in such a way as shall not interfere with the convenience of the public, and to be paid for by those who require its use in the old-fashioned, but in this case indispensable, form of a toll. The Society of Arts has undertaken to raise the necessary funds by the issue of debentures, the interest and capital to be covered by the tolls levied—namely, 2s. for each foot passenger, and 3s. for a single horse, or 6s. for two horses.

DISASTROUS SHIPWRECKS.—During a heavy gale on Saturday last the brig Pioneer, of Carnarvon, became completely disabled in Cardigan Bay. The Cardigan life-boat, belonging to the National Life-boat Institution, immediately put off to her assistance. In the meantime, however, seven out of eight of the shipwrecked crew had unfortunately taken to their own boat; the terrific sea instantly capsized her, and drowned the whole of them. The poor man who was left on board happily missed the ship's boat, owing to its rope having suddenly snapped. He was afterwards rescued by the life-boat, and safely brought on shore.—Again, early on Tuesday morning the schooner Princess Alice, of Ipswich, foundered during a heavy gale of wind on S zewell Bank, near the Suffolk coast. The shipwrecked crew, consisting of five men, took to the ship's boat. In this frail bark they were tossed about, amidst the greatest perils, until dawn of day, when the Southwold life-boat, also belonging to the National Institution, observing their dangerous position, immediately put off through the tremendous surf to their rescue, and afterwards brought the poor men safely to land. Numerous other disasters at sea are reported from almost all parts of the coast, both of England and Ireland. Many lives and much property have unhappily been lost. The gales seem to have been both severe and general.

Literature.

History of the Four Conquests of England. By JAMES AUGUSTUS ST. JOHN. 2 vols. Smith, Elder, and Co.

The brevity of the notice we can afford these volumes must not be taken as any measure of the importance we assign to their subject. We give words of sincere praise to Mr. St. John's account of England during the period lying between the first invasion of the Romans and the completion of the Norman Conquest.

It is not the least of this writer's merits that he does not "pad" his story of things said and done with too many reflections upon doubtful points. Such opinions as he does offer, are for the most part of a kind which will secure their passing unchallenged by the bulk of readers; and if they are commonplace, so is truth. It must be admitted, however, that he is occasionally weak in matter, and, on the whole, thin in style. But we willingly accept the unpretentious simplicity of a conscientious annalist, as we turn with disgust from the ungrammatical and empty wordiness of writers like Alison—writers whose "success" with the "intelligent public" must be a perpetual suggestion to men who know how to write to throw down their pens in despair.

We should be glad, indeed, if the example set in these volumes by Mr. St. John—the example, we mean, of clear storytelling and intelligent forbearance as to what lies beyond—were likely to be followed by other historians. Lazy people may like to have their thinking done for them; but some of us, over here in England, have long been of the opinion lately expressed by M. Pelletan in France to the effect that the picturesque school and the philosophic school of writers have abominably sophisticated history. Let us, say we, have the events as they arose told in the ballad or Bible style, and leave us to make our own reflections now and then.

We should like to cherish the hope that Mr. St. John will look upon this book, in its present shape, as a labour of love to which he may return at his leisure for the purpose of strengthening what is weak and deepening the colours here and there. Does not he think he owes his readers some information about the Christianisation of Druidic and Scandinavian rites and festivals, and about the influence of (especially) the Danish conquests upon our laws and customs?

Pamphilus; or, the Head and Heart Legacy. Dedicated to the Rising Generation. W. H. Smith and Son.

A little book calculated to do good to us all—including the best, for the best have been unexposed to temptation and do not understand all. It is the autobiography of a gentleman (we suspect, but may not avow, the authorship) who has risen high in the world's esteem, to favour and fortune, from exactly nothing at all. The "nothing at all" consisted of the most careful parental training that the poorest of the poor can afford—the inculcation of virtue in its every form. The value of this, and of not departing from it, is shown in these pages, which, we may add, teem with interest, and excite curiosity page by page. The writer is so bluntly honest that we always expect to find him in a prison or a workhouse in the next chapter. He is ever on the brink of offending somebody by being superior to him, as in Gay's admirable sarcasm:—

When you censure the age
Be cautious and sage;
Lest the courtiers offended should be;
If you mention vice or bribe,
'Tis so pat to all the tribe,
Each one vows "That was levelled at me."

The writer is exactly one of those fortunate beings who rise superior to Fortune. With all his failures he is a success, and his memoirs will lighten the dark path to others. It is the strange, sad, brilliant story of James Lackington over again. It turns Fortune upside down. The men who are inspired with the trick of success are those who begin the world with one halfpenny—or without it. But woe to the man who is cast upon the world with five pounds and five hundred of his father's friends! The cleverest of the unsuccessful men of the present day once explained the position thus:—"The fact is, when I came of age my aunt left me five-and-twenty pounds, and it destroyed all my energies." Energy, then, combined with austere honesty and principle, will assure that comfort sometimes called making a fortune; and it is this, taught by example, which the philosophic Pamphilus teaches to his own boy and the rising generation.

The Lady's Guide to the Ordering of her Household and the Economy of the Dinner-table. By a Lady. Smith, Elder, and Co.

We confess to having come to the conclusion—not without patient observation and reflection—that a housekeeper, like a poet, is born, not made; or, to reject the epigrammatic exaggeration for the sake of getting at the exact truth, is (both born and made, but) more born than made; in other words, that a good brain is the prime requisite. To complete the ideal in its most extended form, a sweet, soft temper, and the capacity of governing without the love of it (oh, rarest of golden gifts!), must be added. You may bray the ordinary woman in her own mortar, after Solomon's recipe, without making even a cook of her. To what end, then, Cookery Books and Ladies' Guides? Let us fall back on a sophism of Paley in a certain ecclesiastical discussion—"We sow many seeds to raise one flower." We expend all this training-power for the chance of furnishing useful guidance once in a million times to the sweet creature who has the genius, and waits, now and then, the formula.

This "Lady's Guide" is a thoroughly good one. It contains a good deal of detail in the shape of specific recipes and bills of fare; but it is very strong in the department of wise general suggestion. The accomplished authoress has evidently seen through and despised the rubbish that has lately been "potted" about teaching domestic economy to girls, and says, truly, that an English maiden, "at a time when her intellect is being developed" and her higher tastes formed, "cannot be suitably employed in" messing about dinners; and that if she could, it would not be prudent to send her down into the kitchen to do servants' work in servants' company. The young housewife cannot be expected to bring to her task, at first, anything but aptitude, general ideas, and willingness to learn. This is true and good to be said; and the "Lady" might well have added what we will say for her, as she has been too good-natured—that if an underdone potato can really send a husband away from home, he had better keep away, or swallow underdone potatoes till he splits. On the other side of the great "domestic" question, we must say there is great discouragement for men of taste in the too, too true remark of this authoress that many (nearly all?) "young wives who have been used to large expenditure contrast the narrow means of their husbands with the large income of their parents, and at once abandon in despair all ideas of aiming at refinement in their household and the table." This is enough to drive a fellow to his club or the chop-house; and

What hope of answer or redress?

Alas! in the average woman, none at all. You cannot make a silken purse out of &c.

Besides the general observation that this is a good book, we may add that it contains matter about the pot-au-feu which will be new to readers of ordinary cookery-books, and that the "Lady" goes into questions of furniture and the management of servants with great intelligence; displaying under the latter head a humane shrewdness, which, if it were not, like Dogberry's reading and writing, "the gift of God," would be infinitely creditable to her. It is a rare thing indeed to find a "lady" standing up for the rights of servants to "imitate" their mistresses, or, as she puts it, to "pick up crumbs of refinement" from their table.

THE WINDHAM LUNACY CASE.

THIS protracted inquiry is at length closed. The Master summed up the evidence on Wednesday, and on Thursday the jury and Mr. Warren had a private interview with Mr. Windham. Mr. Windham took his seat on the bench by the right-hand side of the Master, who shook hands with him. He appeared quite self-possessed, and replied to the questions put by the Master without any apparent difficulty. Mr. Windham gave an account of his first acquaintance with his wife, and replied promptly to the Master's questions about the French language. The journey to Scotland, the visit to Paris, and the other incidents of Mr. Windham's career were fully inquired into. Among other questions, Mr. Windham was asked, "What is your definition of a perfect lady?" After the examination of Mr. Windham the jury returned the following verdict:—"That Mr. Windham is of sound mind, and capable of taking care of himself and his affairs."

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD COUNTY.—The nomination of candidates took place on Tuesday. Sir H. Dashwood, Bart., was proposed by Dr. Phillimore and seconded by Mr. Strickland. Colonel Fane was proposed by Mr. Hammersley and seconded by Dr. Marsham. The show of hands was in favour of Sir H. Dashwood. A poll was demanded, and was fixed for Friday (yesterday).

PRESTON.—Sir P. Hesketh Fleetwood, Bart., and Mr. George Melley, have both issued addresses to the electors of Preston soliciting their suffrages in the event of a vacancy occurring by a dissolution of Parliament. Both candidates are Liberals, and it is expected that a Conservative will also be started. A keen contest is anticipated.

COLERAINE.—Pacards have been extensively posted throughout the town of Coleraine announcing the intention of Mr. Robert Clayton Travers, of London, to contest the borough with the present candidate, Sir Harvey Bruce.

COINAGE MEMORIAL OF THE PRINCE CONSORT.—We have received a letter, signed "Britannus," suggesting that an issue should be made by authority of copper and silver coins, having the figure of the Queen on one side and that of the late Prince Consort on the other, which coins might be preserved in collections, and so hand down the memory of his Royal Highness as the coins of the Roman Emperors and Governors have done theirs. "Britannus" quotes a similar proposal of Mr. Addison in a paper in the *Guardian* in support of his project. We doubt whether this idea could be carried out without violating the rule usually followed in this country of having the image of the reigning Sovereign only on our coins; but a medal might be struck on the plan proposed by "Britannus" which would fully meet the object he has in view.

THE APPROACHING SESSION.—Viscount Palmerston will give a full-dress dinner at his residence in Piccadilly, on the 5th inst., to the Right Hon. the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Hon. W. Portman, Mr. Western Wood, and the leading officials of the Government. Earl Granville, as Lord President of the Council, gives an entertainment to the principal officers of State on the 3rd inst., when the nomination of the Sheriffs takes place. The noble Earl, as Ministerial leader in the House of Lords, will give a full-dress banquet on the 5th to the leading supporters of the Government. Lord Palmerston has addressed the usual circular to the supporters of his Government, asking them to be in their places by the 6th inst. His Lordship is now at Broadlands, where he will remain till the end of this week. The Earl of Derby has issued cards of invitation for a Parliamentary dinner on the 5th inst. to a large circle of his political supporters in the House of Lords, and Mr. Disraeli has issued a circular requesting the presence of his friends and supporters in the House of Commons on the first day of the Session.

WRECK OF H. M. S. CONQUEROR.—Her Majesty's ship Conqueror has stranded off the Bahamas, and become a total wreck. The Donegal, Nile, and some smaller vessels went to render assistance. It was hoped that all her guns, machinery, and other valuable stores would be saved. The Conqueror was a line-of-battle ship mounting 101 guns. No lives were lost.

THE CHINESE INDEMNITY.—The English share of the indemnity paid by the Chinese Government on account of the murder of various English and French prisoners, and injuries inflicted on others, amounts to £93,000, which is now being distributed in the following proportions:—To the legal representatives of Captain Brabazon, of the Royal Artillery, £15,000; to the legal representatives of Messrs. de Norman and Anderson, the sum of £15,000 each; to the legal representative of Mr. Bowley, the *Times* correspondent, the sum of £15,000; to the legal representatives of Private Phipps, 1st Dragoon Guards, £2,400; to the families of the eight Sikhs who were murdered, £12,000; to Messrs. Parkes and Lock, £8,000 each. The Sikhs who were subjected to ill-treatment, but who were returned alive, will also receive a handsome portion of the indemnity.

A SARCASTIC BUT ILLITERATE THIEF.—On the night of the 14th of last month Mr. William Wood, of Stanningley, near Bradford, left Leeds in a third-class carriage on the Leeds, Bradford, and Halifax Junction Railway. He had with him a small box, containing twenty-four watches, valued altogether at about £60. The box was tied up in a red handkerchief. Mr. Wood got out of the train at the Stanningley station, but his box of watches had either vanished before he arrived there or was left in the carriage. Some days afterwards a printed handbill was circulated in which a reward of £5 was offered for the restoration of the missing property, which was stated to have been left in a third-class carriage of the train by which the owner travelled. A woman having given information that she saw a man of indifferent character, living a Pudey, carrying the lost box away from the station, his house was visited and searched by the police, but without finding any trace of the watches, and nothing was heard of the property until Friday morning week, when the box and red handkerchief, inclosed in brown paper, were found in one of the waiting-rooms at the Great Northern Railway station, Bradford. The parcel had upon it the direction, "Mr. Wood, watchdealer, Stanningley, going to Leeds." On the box being opened the only thing found inside was a slip of white paper, with writing upon it, of which the following is a *verbatim et literaliter* copy:—"I have sent box back and think on and keep better stuff when the gets some more dont blame that Pudey man because he hasent got them, and twomans says that she saw him have a black box back on him. She couderd due so wen it were tied up in neclth on it wor red. if i was man i would reight it we him. But thy watches will ner see em again i nobbit gat 17 Pand for lot and tha mun think the sen weel of tha gotten Box."

THE GRAND DUKE MAXIMILIAN AND MEXICO.—The Continental journals are busily engaged in discussing the candidature of the Archduke Maximilian of Austria for the crown of Mexico, which, rumours are, is to be made a kingdom by England, France, and Spain. Other candidates, such as the Count of Flanders, second son of the King of the Belgians, had also been talked of, but universal concurrence now makes the Austrian Archduke the accepted aspirant. Some of the French and Belgian journals speak of the affair as definitely arranged; and the only statement we have seen approaching to a denial is contained in a telegram from Vienna, which asserts that the Archduke has not "offered himself" as a candidate for the prospective throne, which, it is stated, he will only accept on a guarantee being given of support for ten years, and that he shall be freely chosen by the Mexicans. The latter contingent is, we should think, very unlikely of occurrence. Still, we are quite unwilling to believe that England could be secretly made by her Government a party to any such mode of disposing of the destinies of a foreign people in whose internal affairs we have no possible right to interfere.

THE EX-KING OF NAPLES AND THE TORRE DEL GRECO.—Our readers will remember that the ex-King of Naples lately sent a sum of money for the relief of the sufferers by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The Municipality and the National Guard of Torre del Greco, which has suffered most, have, according to a telegram just received, protested in writing against the acceptance of any succour from their late King. They declare that any contribution from such a source "would come from hands dripping with the blood of Italian citizens." The Municipality and National Guard of Torre del Greco act like men of honour and patriots. Their manly rejection and scorn of the proffered gift might open the eyes of Francis II., if anything can, to the nature of the sympathy which Italians feel for the dynasty of their expelled Bourbon tyrants.

THE PARTHENON CLUB, which has been in existence for nearly a quarter of a century, and was originally founded by some of the most celebrated savans of the day, is entirely broken up and dissolved; and, by order of the committee, the library and the whole of the effects of the clubhouse in Regent-street are to be brought to the hammer.

THE PARISIANS are about erecting a Crystal Palace on the plan of that at Sydenham. A company with a capital of 25,000,000, is in course of formation; Sir Joseph Paxton is at the head of the architectural department, Mr. Edwin Clark is appointed consulting engineer, and Mr. Thomas Brassey is to be the contractor. The building will be erected in the Bois de Boulogne.

A LETTER FROM ST. PETERSBURG states that, for the first time for the last fifty years, no "Te Deum" was sung in the churches on Christmas Day in commemoration of the expulsion of the French in 1812.

MR. HARVEY, F.R.C.S., surgeon to the Royal Dispensary for Diseases of the Ear, states as the result of his experience that diseases of the ear, head, &c., are contracted by exposure to cold in railway-carriages, and recommends travellers to take special care to have the head well covered when going on a journey by railway.

[illegible]

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Price 1s. 6d. and 2s. 9d. per box.
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Sold by all Medicine Vendors. Observe "Thomas Fount, 229, Strand, London," on the Government stamp.

THOSE WHO DO NOT ENJOY GOOD HEALTH cannot be too careful in avoiding pills and other medicines composed of minerals. They have a tendency to aggravate and perpetuate disease, but never cure them. Large doctors' bills may be avoided by the use of the safe and certain remedy of **PURE BROWN, No. 4, King-street, Covent-garden.** Others might say they will be relieved, free of cost, by a French or foreign native herbal preparation, which I prepared and used according to directions, but I have seen consumption, bronchitis, asthma, dyspepsia, liver complaint, fits, scrofula, general debility, and all impurities of the blood.

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ROYAL ASYLUM of ST. ANN'S SOCIETY, affording Home, Clothing, Maintenance, and Education to Orphan and other Needy Children of Parents once in prosperity, by voluntary contributions, Brixton-hill, Surrey, and Aldersgate.

Patrons.—Her Most Gracious Majesty, the Prince Consort and the Royal Family.
New candidates may now be nominated for the next half-yearly election.
300 children are receiving the benefits of this Institution, and nearly 300 have been succoured by it.
Children eligible under the rules may be purchased into the Asylum.
Donations gratefully received by Messrs. Spooner, 27, Gracechurch-street; or by
E. F. LARK, Secretary.
Office 2 Walbrook.
Executors of benefactors by will have the privilege of Life Governors for every £50 bequeathed.

A GOOD FAMILY MEDICINE-CHEST with a prudent use, has saved many a life; and yet we think that it might be improved upon and reduced to a more simple form. Take some good compound, such as COCKLE'S ANT-BILIOUS PILLS, and we find that the desired end may be obtained without any of the weight, or little mysterious compartments and enchanted bottles with crystal stoppers. Others might say they will be relieved, free of cost, by a French or foreign native herbal preparation, which I prepared and used according to directions, but I have seen consumption, bronchitis, asthma, dyspepsia, liver complaint, fits, scrofula, general debility, and all impurities of the blood.

—Observe—

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, 1862.

SEASON TICKETS.
SEASON TICKETS are now for SALE, between the hours of Ten and Five daily, at the Office of her Majesty's Commissioners, 454, West Strand, London, W.C. There will be two classes of Season Tickets, neither of which will be transferable. The first, price £3 3s., will entitle the owner to admission to the opening and all other ceremonies, as well as at all times when the building is open to the public. The second, price £2 5s., will confer the same privileges of admission to the Exhibition, and will further entitle the owner to admission to the Gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society at South Kensington and Chiswick (including the Flower Shows and Fêtes at these Gardens) from Feb. 1 to Oct. 18.
Prices of Admission:—On the 1st of May, on the occasion of the opening ceremony, the admissions will be restricted to the owners of Season Tickets and 3rd and 4th of May the price of admission will be 1s. for each person, and the Commissioners reserve to themselves the power of appointing three other days when the same charge will be made. From the 5th to the 17th of May, 5s. From the 18th to the 31st of May, 6d., except on one day in each week, when the charge will be 5s. After the 31st of May the price of admission on four days in each week will be 1s.
Applications through the post (stating Christian name and surname) must be addressed to the Secretary, and may be accompanied by Post Office orders, payable to J. S. Mayo, Esq., at the Post-office, Charing-cross. No cheques or country notes will be received.
Caves for preserving the Season Tickets may be obtained at the Office, 1s. each.
By order,
F. R. SANFORD, Secretary.

REPEAL of the TAXES on LITERATURE and the PRESS.
The COMMEMORATIVE TESTIMONIAL to the Right Hon. T. MILNER GIBSON M.P., will be presented on TUESDAY, the 4th of February, at a Public Breakfast (Twelve o'clock precisely) at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's Inn-fields. Tickets, 10s. 6d., to be obtained at the Freemasons' Hall, and at the Committee Rooms, 47, Paternoster-row.
WM. EWART, M.P., Chairman.
ROBERT CHAMBERS, Treasurer.
JOHN FRANCIS, Hon. Sec.

BEETHOVEN NIGHT at the MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS, ST. JAMES'S HALL, on MONDAY EVENING NEXT, FEB. 4. Programme—Miss Arabella Goddard, Violin—M. Sainton, Violoncello—M. Payer, Vocalist—Miss Banks and Mr. Weiss, Conductors. For full particulars see programme. Sofa Stalls, 5s.; Balcony, 3s.; Admission, 1s. Tickets at Chappell's, No. 50, New Bond-street; Cramer's and Hammond's, Regent-street; Kellib, Frowse, and Co's, 45, Cheapside; and at Austin's, 55, Piccadilly.

FRENCH GALLERY, 120, Pall-mall.—The NINTH ANNUAL WINTER EXHIBITION OF CARINET PICTURES by living British Artists, now OPEN DAILY, from Half-past Nine to Five.—Admission, One Shilling.

ART-UNION OF ENGLAND.—Third Season, 1861-2. The CHROMO-LITHOGRAPHS issued by this Society are ready for delivery. Prizeholders select from the Public Exhibitions. Subscription half a guinea. Prospectuses forwarded on application. Offices, 13, Regent-street, S.W.
BELL SMITH, Secretary.

IMPORTANT SALE.—WORCESTER PORCELAIN.
MESSRS. KERR and CO. beg to inform the Nobility, Gentry, &c., and Families furnishing, that a change of Partnership being about to take place, they have determined on disposing of the whole of their Manufactured Stock by Private Sale, at the Works, at Reduced Prices or Discounts, consisting of Breakfast Dinner, Dessert, Tea, and Ornamental Ware, and some Toilet Services, amounting to from £1000 to £30,000. They are chiefly of the Newest and most Modern Patterns, and at almost every variety of price. Sale to commence on and after the 1st of FEBRUARY NEXT, from Nine a.m. to Six p.m. each day, for a limited period. Further particulars forwarded by post, and samples if required.
All Services purchased at the above Sales can be matched hereafter at the Manufactory.
N.B.—ROYAL PORCELAIN WORKS, WORCESTER.
N.B.—Visitors admitted to inspect the Works, as usual, January, 1862.

P. AND S. BEYFUS HAVE OPENED ADDITIONAL AND MOST EXTENSIVE PREMISES No. 141, OXFORD-STREET (nearly opposite Bond-street), in conjunction with City premises, 91 to 95, City-road. **THOSE ABOUT TO FURNISH** are respectfully solicited to inspect their large and varied Stock of first-class Furniture at both Establishments. **GOODS CARBAGE-FREE TO ANY PART OF THE KINGDOM.** Illustrated Catalogues gratis and post-free.

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Robert Livingstone, Dublin, aged thirteen, had a running at his ankle which originated in injuries communicated by vaccination when only a few months old. The disease had not shown itself very violent until his twelfth year, when it burst forth at his ankle. The medical attendant had pronounced it incurable, and for many weeks insisted upon amputation as the only possible means of saving his life. To this course the boy was unwilling to submit. There being no other hope of cure, he yielded to the entreaties of a friend to try MORISON'S UNIVERSAL VEGETABLE PILLS. He commenced to use them in the manner prescribed, together with the external application of a simple vegetable poultice, and in a few months his leg and health were entirely restored, and he is now a living testimony to the wonderful-working power of these invaluable medicines.
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The dietary and medical treatment of an expensive nature, and, in addition to the in-door patients in the present Hospital, the surgeons have constantly upwards of four hundred out-door patients under treatment.
Subscriptions will be very thankfully received by the Treasurer, the Bankers to the Hospital, and by the London and country Bankers generally, and at the Secretary's Office, 157, Piccadilly.
Board-room, September, 1861.
A. L. L. President.
N.B.—All poor persons suffering from cancer are admitted as patients upon their own application at 157, Piccadilly, on Tuesdays or Fridays, at two o'clock, free of any expense. As an in-door patient, a preference is usually given to the recommendation of a Life Governor.

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